

Thursday 25 March 2021

Dear European Council President Michel, President of the European Commission von der Leyen and European Commission Executive Vice President Timmermans,

The Clean Arctic Alliance has just forwarded an open letter to the IMO Secretary General which we also attach. It requests that the letter be made available to all IMO members, which include the EU 27, and to the European Commission in consultative status.

As the Commission prepares the proposed EU Green Deal response to the climate crisis, the Clean Arctic Alliance finds it inconceivable that the European Union's member states would not ensure that the IMO takes resolute and immediate action on Friday this week on a first substantive step to reduce shipping's black carbon impact on the Arctic, following a full eleven years of discussion.

This is a clear litmus test for the EU and its member states as to their climate bona fides and to the solemn commitments on protecting the Arctic that the EU spelt out in its landmark 2016 Joint Communication on the Arctic. JOIN(2016) 21 final "sets out the case for an EU policy that focuses on advancing international cooperation in responding to the impacts of climate change on the Arctic's fragile environment, and on promoting and contributing to sustainable development, particularly in the European part of the Arctic".

Yours sincerely

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