

## **STATEMENT**

Members of Bright Blue — Hungarian Corporate Climate Platform and signatories to this declaration support the Hungarian government to accelerate the country's sustainable, low carbon transition and work with the EU to move beyond its current 20% greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction target by setting more ambitious short and medium term targets and recalibrating the ETS so as to strengthen the carbon price.

The growing concern that without a well-functioning carbon market Europe will be unable to remain competitive in the global race towards alternative technologies, urges us to strengthen the carbon market and invest now in existing and future low carbon technologies. As highlighted by the *Clean Energy Finance Report: Central & Eastern Europe* released today by the University of Cambridge Programme for Sustainability Leadership and the Corvinus University Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research, many opportunities exist in renewables in terms of large-scale cross border cooperation, job creation and growth, but these opportunities are still not fully realised. Not only is this a lost opportunity at a time when growth and jobs is important to Hungary and the region, but we also strongly believe that the costs of a delayed action are far greater than the cost of investing today. For that reason, signatories of this declaration advise Hungary to avoid locking herself into high-carbon projects.

While there have been commendable measures on renewable energy development in Hungary, by meeting the country's 2010 RES-E target and implementing all the relevant RES Directives, we encourage the government to take further steps towards an even more climate friendly low-carbon policy and market development. We are convinced that a more ambitious short term GHG emissions target as proposed in the European Commission's *Roadmap for Moving to a Low Carbon Economy in 2050*, alongside clear targets for 2030 and 2040, and a strengthening of the carbon market will boost economic growth, create jobs, increase energy security and will reduce the impact of energy price fluctuations. In order to open opportunities that exist in renewable energy development, Bright Blue advocates for further actions especially on capacity building, simplification of licensing process, grid and transmission infrastructure improvement and predictability of the legal environment.

The time for action is now. The signatories commit themselves to support the government to develop strategies and incentives that reflect the content of this declaration and welcome all companies and organizations to sign this statement and work with us towards a viable low carbon vision for Hungary.

11 May 2012

