



Bundesministerium  
für Umwelt, Naturschutz  
und Reaktorsicherheit

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Dear Mr. Rifkin,

In the first half of the year 2007 Germany has the chair of the Council of the European Union. In this context I will invite my colleagues, the ministers for environment of 27 European countries, to an informal meeting in Essen. The motto of this meeting is "Environment, Innovation and Employment". We want to underline the crucial role of environmental improvements for further innovation and employment and vice versa. Technical and economic innovations are necessary to improve the environment as well as further environmental improvements are only achievable, if the EU is ready for further innovations. That - at the same time - is the prerequisite for more and sustainable employment.

Innovation in particular is necessary in the climate and energy sector. Not only the recent increase of energy prices and the growing concerns about security of supply, moreover the challenge of climate change, ask serious questions about the future of our energy system. The European Council in March 2007 under the German Presidency will have to give orientation and we will assure a distinctive role of the Environment Council in that respect. Furthermore we will lay down the basis for the EU-position in the international negotiations of a post-2012-climate-regime.

At the beginning of our meeting in the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2007 we would like to open the discussion with one or two keynote speakers, who have a world - wide recognised repu-

tation in the fields of "Environment, Innovation and Employment". Therefore it would be a great pleasure and honour for me and the German government if I can welcome you as keynote speaker in Essen and I would be very grateful if you can save the date for a speech.

Sincerely yours

Vigore Fedail