



**Laureates:**

Mairead Maguire, Ireland (1976)  
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala (1992)  
Jody Williams, USA (1997)  
Shirin Ebadi, Iran (2003)  
Wangari Maathai, Kenya (2004)  
Aung San Suu Kyi (1991) - Honorary

February 15, 2012

President of the Republic Nicolas Sarkozy  
Palais de l'Elysée  
55, rue du faubourg Saint-Honoré  
75008 Paris  
France

**Support the European Commission's Fuel Quality Directive**

Dear President of the Republic Sarkozy:

We—a group of Nobel Peace Laureates—are writing today to ask you to do the right thing for our environment and support the European Commission's effort to keep highly polluting tar sands oil out of Europe.

Climate change is the gravest threat to the wellbeing of our planet. We now stand at a turning point. The Fuel Quality Directive proposed by the European Commission is an example of a policy that, if implemented properly, can move us away from our destructive dependence on oil, coal and natural gas to renewable energy sources and clean transportation sources. It is designed to help Europeans make cleaner fuel choices.

Tar sand development is the fastest growing source of greenhouse gas emissions in Canada, and threatens the health of the planet. As the tar sands have contributed to rising emissions, Canada recently stepped away from the Kyoto Protocol. Europe must not follow in Canada's footsteps.

Dr. James Hansen, at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has said that unrestricted exploitation of high carbon tar sand oil would mean "game over for the climate".

Large reserves of tar sands exist in Canada, Madagascar, Russia and Venezuela. In Canada, production of tar sand oil is not only contributing to climate change, but is also causing widespread environmental damage and harm to local people and indigenous communities. The production process has polluted the Athabasca River, poisoned the air with toxins and turned farmland into wasteland. Large areas of the boreal forest have been cut down to make way for tar sand mining.

*Advocating for peace, justice and equality*

For these reasons we commend President Obama's decision to reject the proposal to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have dramatically increased the amount of tar sands oil produced and transported from Canada to the United States.

We urge you to support the European Commission's proposal and say *no* to highly polluting tar sands oil—in favor of cleaner fuels.

Sincerely,

Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate (1976) – Ireland  
Betty Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate (1976) – Ireland  
Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Laureate (1980) – Argentina  
Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate (1984) – South Africa  
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Nobel Peace Laureate (1992) – Guatemala  
President José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Peace Laureate (1996) – East Timor  
Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate (1997) – USA  
Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Peace Laureate (2003) – Iran

CC:

Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, Minister of Environment  
Eric Besson, Minister of Energy  
François Fillon, Prime Minister