

Potential 30% cut in CO2 alarms EUROCHAMBRES

EUROCHAMBRES is alarmed by the Commissions presentation of the 'Analysis of moving beyond 20%', but welcomes the reiteration that the conditions still apply for the EU to move to a higher emissions reduction target. Chambers are concerned that unilateral decisions will have a negative impact on both European competitiveness and international climate change negotiations.

EUROCHAMBRES rejects the Commission's assertion that the economic recession is an opportunity for sustainable emissions reductions. The recent, higher-than-expected reduction of emissions is clearly due to the crisis-induced fall in production, rather than progress in terms of sustainable development. Feedback from the Chamber network on business investment levels reinforces this assessment, yet the new Commission proposal seems to neglect it.

Arnaldo Abruzzini, General Secretary of EUROCHAMBRES, commented: *"The Commission argues that the cost of cutting CO2 emissions by 20% has decreased because of the economic crisis. Alarmingly, they seem not to realise that the recession has in fact created obstacles for businesses planning to invest to reduce their emissions in the long term. One might interpret from this that the Commission's emissions reduction strategy is now based on lower European production, which is clearly contradictory to our growth and jobs ambitions."*

Moreover, energy-intensive industries affected by the Emissions Trading System (ETS) are now planning for the years ahead and require a stable policy framework. A level playing field and an equal worldwide CO2 price are crucial to companies in the ETS.

"During these financially challenging times it is essential for European businesses that the European Commission avoids moving the goalposts," said Mr Abruzzini.

EUROCHAMBRES' position on emissions reductions can be downloaded from www.eurochambres.eu/content/default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=2479

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