

Brussels, 25 November 2015

Climate change concerns us all. Not only does it affect our ecosystem and our way of living, but it also has huge economic implications. EUROCHAMBRES and CAN Europe are, therefore, fully committed to prevent climate change and support a long-term vision of global and sustainable climate neutrality and climate resilience.

We believe that economic prosperity and climate action are not mutually exclusive objectives. Indeed, reducing the carbon footprint of businesses and the society can create a remarkable opportunity for green growth. Moreover, scientific studies provide clear evidence that the long-term financial efforts for pursuing the transition to a green economy are clearly lower than the long-term costs caused by carbon pollution.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21), to be held in Paris in December 2015, will be a critical milestone in combating climate change, as it aims to deliver an unprecedented global agreement that will put the world on track to a low-carbon, sustainable future. Missing this opportunity would not only be a political, but also a moral failure, imposing an excessive burden on future generations. We therefore call on the EU and its Member States to put every effort into the negotiations in Paris.

Against this background, our visions and commitments are the following:

- We welcome the fact that the EU calls for an ambitious and legally binding international climate regime, keeping the rise in global temperature to under 2 degrees Celsius by 2100.
- No single country or even continent can combat global warming alone. We urgently need a global solution that includes all major emitters (including China, US, EU, etc.). Thus each party needs to adopt and implement clear national emission targets that are subject to a fair effort-sharing at global level.
- The agreement must send clear signals to decision-makers and investors at all levels, inducing a change of investment priorities. In the mid-term, smart investment decisions should be stimulated by comparable and harmonised carbon pricing systems in all major emitting countries, while the planned Green Climate Fund will act as an effective catalyst for low-carbon investments in poor countries.

- The transition to a low-carbon economy also requires massive investments in research and development in order to stimulate innovation in much-needed green technologies, making change materialise. Energy efficiency and renewable energies must be centrepieces in this technological shift.

In recent years and decades, the EU has rightly pursued its role as pace-setter in international climate action. However, to keep the EU on this track, more actions will be necessary.

In the frame of a successful agreement, the EU and its Member States must

- Adapt their energy policy without delay to lead by example. This includes the accelerated cost-effective uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures and the immediate provision of adequate infrastructure.
- Swiftly and significantly reform the EU Emissions Trading System so that it is in line with the EU's long-term commitment to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Auctioning revenues should be used to fund deeper emission cuts and to support adaptation to an already changing climate, including in developing countries. Only a strong, well-functioning ETS will send the right signal to non-EU countries, to take up comparable measures within a limited global carbon cap.
- Scale up the mobilisation of climate finance in the context of meaningful mitigation and adaptation efforts. In order to attract more private investors, the EU should support developing countries in strengthening their regulatory frameworks and increasing business confidence, while increasing provision of public climate finance.
- Turn the concept of the Energy Union into clear and precise legislation, promoting emission reductions, energy efficiency and renewables. A market for low-carbon products must be developed through economic incentives, sound product performance standards and modernised public procurement approaches. Moreover, the European Commission must be more rigorous with Member States that are failing to implement the legislation already in place.

The transformation of our global economy will create potentials to generate growth and jobs and reduce our dependence on energy imports. CAN EUROPE and EUROCHAMBRES urge EU leaders not to miss the opportunity provided by COP 21

and to ensure the adoption of a comprehensive, inclusive and ambitious climate agreement on mitigation, adaptation and finance.

The joint statement proves that EUROCHAMBRES and CAN Europe share, to a large extent, common interests and expectations for the 2015 climate summit, reflecting a broad consensus within the European civil society and business community. However, with regard to the pathways the EU has to follow to transform its economy, the two organisations admit that there are several areas where their views still differ including on the pace of the transformation, on the role of global carbon markets and other policies, and on the issue of carbon leakage.

In the follow-up to COP21, and while recognizing the urgency to act, CAN Europe and EUROCHAMBRES will commit in a continuous constructive dialogue on their diverging positions.



Wendel Trio
Director
CAN-Europe



Arnaldo ABRUZZINI
Secretary General
EUROCHAMBRES

Further information: Mr Wendel Trio,
Tel. +32 2 894 46 77, wendel@caneurope.org

Press contact: Ms Anna Drazkiewicz,
Tel. +32 2 894 4675, ania@caneurope.org



Further information: Mr Michael Steurer,
Tel. +32 2 282 08 77, steurer@eurochambres.eu

Press contact: Ms Simona Obreja,
Tel. +32 2 282 08 66, obreja@eurochambres.eu



EUROCHAMBRES – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 20 million businesses in Europe – 98% of which are SMEs – through members in 43 countries and a network of 1700 regional and local Chambers. EUROCHAMBRES strives to improve the general conditions in which businesses operate, to facilitate access to markets within and beyond the EU and to ensure the availability of human, financial and natural resources.

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's largest coalition working on climate and energy issues. With over 120 member organisations in more than 30 European countries, CAN Europe works to prevent dangerous climate change and promote sustainable energy and environment policy in Europe. CAN Europe represents 44 million citizens who support the work of its members.