



31 January 2011

MEETING BETWEEN COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE OF CLIMATE ACTION, CONNIE HEDEGAARD, AND BUSINESSEUROPE PRESIDENT, JÜRGEN R. THUMANN ON 2 FEBRUARY 2011

ROADMAP FOR A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY BY 2050

Key messages

1. BUSINESSEUROPE supports a roadmap for a low-carbon economy for 2050 but warns that setting hard targets for 2050 would be premature. If pursued, they would have to be part of a legally enforceable international climate agreement that demands strong effort from all other industrialised and the main developing countries.
2. A technically and economically feasible target for 2030 would be a clearer incentive to invest in low-carbon solutions than changing already established targets for 2020, which from an investment perspective is relatively soon.
3. EU policies must focus on low-carbon growth across all sectors to maximise cost-efficiency. A continued focus on some already heavily regulated sectors would have significant adverse effects on the overall economy and accelerate carbon leakage.

Background

BUSINESSEUROPE supports the objectives of the EU's 2020 climate and energy package and acknowledges the importance of the longer term perspective. In view of the European Commission's upcoming Communication on "A roadmap for a low carbon economy by 2050", BUSINESSEUROPE has elaborated a preliminary position that was submitted to the Commission during the public consultation in late 2011. This roadmap is a priority item for BUSINESSEUROPE as continued emissions reductions will have large scale implications for the entire European business community and the EU economy as such. We will continue to discuss this issue among our members during 2011 and call for a continued close cooperation with the Commission.



What does **BUSINESSEUROPE** aim for?

- A feasible and practical trajectory to meeting the 2050 ambition level in the most cost-effective way.
- Thorough assessment of impacts on the sectoral level before intermediate targets (such as one for 2030) is set, with a view to preserve competitiveness and employment in Europe.
- An improved framework for research, development and innovation in low-carbon solutions, considering that the EU ETS primarily must be seen as a tool to achieve set targets at the lowest cost for society rather than a driver for green investment.

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