



PRESS RELEASE

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COP 21: Metals industry backs a strong globally-binding agreement

With less than two weeks until December's COP 21 climate change conference, Eurometaux stresses the importance of a globally binding agreement from international leaders. As well as being needed to limit climate change to below 2°C, shared international commitments would ease the regulatory burden on key European industries, and facilitate the EU's own transition towards a low-carbon economy.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux's Director General, explained: *"Climate change is a critical global challenge, which must be addressed at a global level. In that respect, Europe's non-ferrous metals industry applauds the enormous efforts already taken to reach a globally binding agreement, and encourages EU negotiators to maintain pressure for international commitments"*.

COP 21 is also an opportunity to re-balance Europe's climate leadership and economic growth. Non-ferrous metals are key enablers of a low-carbon and resource-efficient EU economy, but the competitiveness of European producers has been threatened by global imbalances in climate regulations.

Guy Thiran elaborated: *"COP 21 must ensure that other world regions are taking equal responsibility for climate action, allowing the EU to maintain its low-carbon ambition. Because metals are globally-priced commodities, European companies cannot pass extra regulatory costs onto consumers and remain competitive. A binding international agreement is integral to re-establishing level-playing field conditions"*.

Considering the above, Eurometaux strongly hopes for a positive result from next month's negotiations, and maintains its commitment to a low-carbon Europe. When defining the elements of this new agreement, EU negotiators must simply ensure that both climate ambition and industrial competitiveness are duly considered.

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Notes to editors

About Eurometaux

Eurometaux, the European non-ferrous metals association, represents the enterprises and organisations that make up the broad non-ferrous metals supply chain – from mining and refining to processing, fabrication and recycling. Europe's non-ferrous metals industry has a €120bn annual turnover, and creates 500,000 direct jobs and over 3 million indirect jobs in Europe.





About non-ferrous metals

Non-ferrous metals are key enablers of a low-carbon and resource-efficient EU economy:

- Over 90% of a wind turbine is made from metal
- Electric cars are powered by metals-containing batteries
- Over 95% of all metals from buildings are recycled
- 60% of aluminium packaging is recycled in Europe

In supporting the EU's low-carbon transition, the European metals industry also takes its own sustainability responsibilities seriously. For example, since 1990, Europe's aluminium industry has reduced direct CO₂ emissions by 53%, while European copper and nickel producers have lowered their energy consumption by 60% and 48%, respectively.

For more information on the metals industry's contribution to Europe's sustainable future, visit www.ourmetalsfuture.eu

