PRESS RELEASE

New cross-industry study highlights metals as enablers of Europe's low-carbon transition

Brussels, 26 September 2018 – Europe's non-ferrous metals industry and other energy-intensive sectors will require an integrated EU industrial strategy to complete their transition to a low-carbon economy, concludes a study released today by the Institute for European Studies – Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). A strengthened regulatory framework will allow European metals producers to continue providing strategic raw materials for low-carbon applications, while taking responsibility to reduce their own carbon footprint.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux's Director General, stated: **"Europe's metals industry produces and recycles the strategic raw materials required for batteries, renewable energy and clean mobility. We have an ambition to play an enabling role in a 2050 low-carbon Europe. But we will only be able to invest into the low-carbon innovations required if we have a long-term and predictable regulatory framework. Today's study confirms that EU policymakers must make a new Industrial Strategy their top priority".**

The IES report was commissioned by eleven energy-intensive industries to support their contribution to the European Commission's forthcoming strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions. The VUB/IES researchers analysed more than 80 technology options available for energy-intensive industries to achieve significant emissions reductions. This has resulted in a set of recommendations for an efficient EU industrial strategy, which would encourage innovation while maintaining competitiveness.

Of particular importance to the metals industry, the study shows that it is by no means certain that sufficient, reliable and competitively priced low-CO2 electricity will be available to enable this transition.

Guy Thiran continued: "**Our sector's decarbonisation potential is heavily dependent on the availability of sufficient, reliable and competitively priced low-carbon electricity. In countries such as Germany, our industry's CO2 emissions could be reduced by approximately 75% if fully decarbonised electricity is made available at competitive prices, and integration challenges are overcome. Today's study confirms that this will be one of the most important framework conditions for the transition to a low-carbon industry in Europe.**

Large parts of the metals sector have already switched from fossil fuel-based CO2 emitting processes to more energy-efficient electrical processes. We're now ideally placed to take advantage of low-carbon electricity sources, once they are made available and competitive by Europe's power generation sector. We're pleased that today's study recognises the importance of better compensating the indirect costs of the EU Emissions Trading System, to encourage and support industrial electrification.

Link to IES Study

ABOUT EUROMETAUX

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With 500,000 employees and an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

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