

Eurometaux

Our Position on Climate Change

Background

Climate change is one of major challenges facing our time and a challenge that warrants immediate action.

The European metals sector is taking action by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions in our production processes. Indeed, the metal sector in Europe has decreased its greenhouse gas emissions by 45% in fifteen years. Moving forward, we are fully committed to further innovation and constant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in our production processes.

As enablers of the low-carbon economy, metals are part of the solution. Indeed, a detailed study by the World Bank in 2017 concluded that the rise of green energy technologies required for a low-carbon future is expected to lead to significant growth in demand for a wide range of metals, such as aluminum, copper, lead, lithium, manganese, nickel, and zinc¹. Indeed, low-carbon technology requirements, and hence relevant metals demand, rises most rapidly the closer the world is to achieving the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement commitment of avoiding a 2°C rise in the global temperature.

However, the competitiveness of European producers is threatened by the global imbalances in climate regulations. In light of this, as an industry we have long stressed the continued importance of reciprocal commitments to tackling climate change from regions beyond Europe. At present, in comparison with other regions of the world, European has implemented the most stringent policy. A global approach is needed to limit climate change to below 2 °C.

Shared international commitments would ease the regulatory burden on key European industries such as metals, and facilitate the EU's own transition towards a low-carbon economy. As metals are 'price-taker' globally-priced commodities, European companies cannot pass any additional regulatory costs onto consumers and remain competitive. Reciprocal climate change commitments from comparable industries are thus essential to establish a level playing field between EU and non EU producers.

Looking ahead, we call upon policymakers to ensure that other world regions are taking equal responsibility for climate ambition.

ABOUT EUROMETAUX

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With 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.

¹ The Growing Role of Minerals and Metals for a Low Carbon Future, World Bank Group, June 2017
<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/207371500386458722/pdf/117581-WP-P159838-PUBLIC-ClimateSmartMiningJuly.pdf>

