The European Cement Association

CEMBUREAU

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EDITORIAL

Carbon Tax: the French case raises EU concerns

The ambitious target of the French government to implement a CO2 (carbon) tax from 1 January 2010 has been thwarted by the Constitutional Council ruling that the proposed tax would infringe the principle of equality before public charges and, as such, be unconstitutional.

This ruling must retain the attention of European observers as the main reason for the infringement is the exemption granted to industries falling within the scope of ETS which will still, for a time, receive free allowances. The debate is emotionally and politically charged in France and the question arises whether a similar controversy is not bound to explode at European level, where the European Commission is considering introducing a carbon tax for sectors not included in the ETS and, in some Member States, such as Ireland (*Carbon tax introduced in 2010 budget measures in December 2009), where similar provisions have been adopted.*

One thing is clear to all industry observers: it is of the essence of the ETS as a market-based instrument that no additional tax is being superposed on CO2 emissions included in the scheme. The European manufacturing industry, the competitiveness of which is already significantly affected by a unilateral ETS, cannot conceivably and could not possibly cope with double taxation, one tax at a fixed rate, the carbon tax, in addition to a tax with a variable rate (under ETS auctioning).

If the two mechanisms cannot be superposed then, clearly, a choice has to be made! Either an exemption - even if unpopular - is granted to the ETS sector or, as suggested by Michel Rocard (the former French Prime Minister and MEP, who recently led a panel reporting to President Sarkozy on the proposed carbon tax), France should take up the matter courageously at EU level and propose that the ETS be scrapped to be replaced by a European carbon tax covering all emission sources including those currently in the ETS. How emissions linked to imported products would be treated should then perhaps be more easily defined.

Is that likely to happen ...? The worst situation would be a compromise that would imperil the protection against double taxation in the rush to find a solution, announced for April/May 2010 in France. Such solution would not provide an example to be followed in the EU and its Members States. European eyes will have to stay focused on France as the debate may well spread throughout EU.

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EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

EU Finance Ministers approve VAT changes to ETS fraudsters

EU Finance Ministers approved in December an amendment to EU VAT (value-added tax) rules in a bid to prevent fraudulent practices connected with the EU ETS (see November 2009 *Eurobrief). There have been alleged cases where carbon traders kept the VAT instead of notifying it to tax authorities, and there have been fears that the prevalence of these so-called carousel fraudsters could undermine the system. Pending the advisory opinion of the European Parliament, this proposed Directive would allow Member States to implement, on an optional and temporary basis, a reversal of liability for the payment of VAT on greenhouse gas emission allowances. This would remove the need for VAT to change hands between the carbon traders every time carbon credits are sold. The cut-off date approved by the Council through a unanimous vote is six months later than the European Commission's original proposal.*

The Commission's original proposal can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/resources/documents/common/legislation/proposals/taxation/COM%282009%29511_en.pdf

The Council's position can be found on page 8 of the following press release:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/111706.pdf

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Commission Decision on carbon leakage published

Commission Decision 2010/2/EU determining a list of sectors and subsectors which are deemed to be exposed to a significant risk of carbon leakage has been published in the European Union's Official Journal (OJ). Under the Decision, 164 sectors and subsectors will receive free carbon allowances from 2013 onwards according to stringent benchmarks. The 164 sectors and sub sectors on the list account for around a quarter of total EU ETS emissions and just over three quarters of manufacturing emissions covered by the scheme. The cement industry qualifies as a sector vulnerable to carbon leakage on the basis of an increase in production cost, directly and indirectly induced by the ETS, in excess of 30% of GVA, an increase amounting to 45.5% in the cement sector..

The Commission Decision can be found here:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2010:001:0010:0018:EN:PDF

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It may be revisted, through the same procedure, as part of the ETS review.

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

EU ETS auctioning proposal likely to be delayed

Opposition from the UK, Germany, Spain and Poland to European Commission proposals for a centralised system of auctioning carbon allowances in the EU ETS from 2013-20 could mean that the proposal is delayed. A draft proposal was due to be sent to Member States for review at the end of 2009, but this will now not be submitted until 2010. Some Member States wish to maintain their own systems.

The delay could have implications for business. The vast majority of companies which responded to a Commission consultation stated that they will need early actions to help them estimate their costs in advance (see November 2009 *Eurobrief). The electricity sector, for example, has warned that costs and therefore power prices could go up if the European Commission decides to implement spot auctioning for emission allowances from 2013 and not enough allowances are made available early enough. The power industry association Eurelectric has warned that European electricity customers could, as a result, face additional costs of up to €50 billion by 2012. The Commission is set to put forward a proposal on emission allowance auctioning by mid-2010.*

The Commission's presentation on the draft auctioning proposal can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/emission/pdf/28oct_draft_outline_reg.pdf

Directive 2009/29/EC on extending the EU ETS can be found here:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:140:0063:0087:EN:PDF

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

IEA examines emissions reduction in the cement industry

The implementation of carbon capture and storage technology (CCS) on a large scale could help the cement sector reduce its emissions by 18% by 2050 compared with current levels, estimates the International Energy Agency (IEA). Between 20 to 33% of existing kilns will be replaced by new ones before 2020, says the agency, and there is potential for between 40 to 45% of these to be equipped with CCS between 2030 and 2050. IEA stresses, however, that CCS technology will only be possible if the risk of carbon leakage is effectively addressed.

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These findings are contained in the first industry-specific roadmap from IEA, which examines emissions reductions in the cement industry. The roadmap calls for strong national policies to activate known CO2 mitigation actions and the development of commercially-viable CCS technologies as a method for further reducing global CO2 emissions from the cement industry. The cement industry has already made significant progress in reducing CO2 emissions through the use of alternative fuels, improved energy efficiency and clinker substitution. The report acknowledges that, although cement production accounts for around 5% of global man-made CO2 emissions, there is no viable substitute and reduction in demand is not a realistic option in view of the world's continued population growth and increasing rate of urbanisation.

On 3 December 2009, the International Energy Agency and WBCSD held an event in the European Parliament to launch the roadmaps on carbon capture and storage and the cement sector. This event was sponsored by MEP Chris Davies (UK, Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe), and was supported by CEMBUREAU.

The full roadmap can be found here:

www.wbcsdcement.org/technology

The European Cement research Academy (ecra) based in Duesseldorf is currently conducting research on CCS in the cement industry. CEMBUREAU fully supports this project.

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

EU to approve recovery funding for CCS and wind

The European Commission has approved the allocation of €1.05 billion to seven carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects in Europe. The projects are situated in Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, the UK, Italy and France. Each will receive up to €180 million in EU funds (see June 2009 *Eurobrief).*

The Draft Regulation establishing a programme to aid economic recovery by granting financial assistance to projects in the field of energy is available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/grants/docs/eepr/eepr_call_for_proposals_annex1.pdf

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EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Irish Parliament adopts carbon tax for non-ETS sectors

A carbon tax for sectors not covered by the EU ETS, starting at €15 per tonne, has been adopted by the Irish Parliament. There are no exemptions except for ETS sectors. The tax will apply to transport and non-transport fuels (kerosene, marketed gas oil, fuel oil, LPG and natural gas) from May, pending parliamentary approval in January 2010. The implementation deadline for solid fuels, such as coal, is yet to be agreed upon.

The main features of this tax can be found in Annex E of this Irish government report:

http://www.budget.gov.ie/Budgets/2010/Documents/Annexes%20to%20the%20Summary%20of%20Budget%20Measures%20Final.pdf

ENVIRONMENT

Copenhagen climate change conference ends in non-binding agreement

The UN climate change conference (UNFCCC) COP15 in Copenhagen ended in December 2009 with a great deal of publicity but few concrete achievements. The summit concluded with a declaration that failed to receive the full backing of all UNFCCC parties. This declaration lacks certain elements that the EU had declared as crucial, including collective targets for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. The conference failed to set a 2010 deadline for concluding a treaty, and does not mention the need for a legally binding agreement. The conference also failed to deliver a comprehensive agreement on compensating countries for preserving forests, which could play a crucial role in curbing climate change.

The declaration calls for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases "with a view" to keeping global warming below 2Â°C, considered the threshold beyond which climate change may spiral out of control. It also asks developed nations to make deep, verifiable cuts. Developing countries would begin curbing their emissions and report their results every two years, with "provisions for international consultations and analysis". It will be up to individual countries however to determine how far to go.

Other key points include the commitment by developed countries to register their formal emissions reduction pledges for the year 2020 by the end of January 2010. Developing countries are asked to reduce their rising emissions below business as usual (BAU) levels by pledging "nationally appropriate mitigation actions" and register these also by the end of January 2010.

Developing countries are also to send reports to the UNFCCC on mitigation actions taken every

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two years.

There will be a review of the accord's implementation in 2015. This review will include considering whether the goal should be to prevent global average temperatures rising by more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Commission's work on carbon leakage will also continue as planned, with a decision on the number of free carbon allowances that exposed industrial sectors will receive due to be made in 2011.

One tangible result, however, was an agreement by developed nations to spend $30bn (€21bn) over the next three years and $100bn (€70bn) by 2020 to fund projects in poor nations to promote clean energy and deal with drought, rising sea levels and other climate changes. The EU has pledged €7.2bn of the €21bn in fast-start funding, expected to come from a variety of sources, private as well as public.

The Copenhagen Accord can be found here:

http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/cop15/eng/l07.pdf

EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

Agreement on sectoral approaches slipping away

Efforts to develop sectoral approaches to reducing greenhouse gas emissions did not go well at Copenhagen, according to the chair of the working group on long-term cooperative action (AWG-LCA). Many European companies have sectoral agreements as a way to shield them from carbon leakage risks. The Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI), a member-led programme of the World Business Council for Sustainability Development (WBSCD), warned back in November that sectoral approaches were still causing confusion. The WBSCD describes a sectoral approach as "not a one-size-fits-all recipe, but a blend of policies and actions organized around the location of production facilities and each sector's (and region's) unique characteristics".

The CSI's briefing on a sectoral approach can be found here:

http://www.wbcsdcement.org/pdf/WBCSD%20rev%20final%20low.pdf

ENVIRONMENT

ACEI issues open letter on EU follow up to Copenhagen

In an open letter to the European Parliament and the European Commission, the Alliance for a Competitive European Industry (ACEI) has called on the EU not to unilaterally shift its own target from the existing -20% to -30%. Instead, the ACEI has called on the EU to:

» encourage investment in technologies that would contribute to growth in production and jobs in Europe. A revised EU strategy on climate change should focus in providing opportunities for European businesses to be world leaders in environmentally sound technologies developed in Europe and marketed globally, for example by:

» developing breakthrough technologies and markets for carbon intensive processes and products which can be applied worldwide, leading to major global emission reductions. In order to deliver this technological leadership, a significant increase of financial support in R&D, pilot and demonstration projects within the EU is needed.

» encouraging private consumers, industry and the public sector to take up energy efficiency solutions using already existing advanced technologies, through ensuring more innovation-friendly market framework conditions, fiscal incentives and regulatory approaches. At an international level, the EU should focus on building alliances for a comprehensive global agreement on climate change. Countries receiving financial support for climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should agree with international monitoring and control of their greenhouse gas emissions.

See *ACEI issues open letter* *(pdf doc)*

ENVIRONMENT

Commission communication on biodiversity

On 19 January, the European Commission issued a communication on Options for an EU vision and target for biodiversity beyond 2010'. The document highlights that, together with climate change, the loss of biodiversity is the most critical global environmental threat and that, in addition, it gives rise to substantial economic and welfare losses. In terms of what has been achieved so far, the communication draws attention to several pieces of legislation, including the 2006 Biodiversity Action Plan and the EU Birds & Habitats Directives.

However, the Commission has identified several failings, including implementation gaps in the establishment of the Natura 2000 network, major policy gaps, particularly soils and invasive

species and the fact that ecosystem services are not sufficiently addressed in current legislation. It also notes that there needs to be improved integration of biodiversity concerns into other policies.

The communication proposes several actions for a port 2010 EU vision and target for biodiversity, such as a vision for 2050 which ensures that biodiversity and ecosystem services - the world's natural capital - are preserved, valued and, insofar as possible, restored for their intrinsic value and so that they can continue to support economic prosperity and human well-being as well as avert catastrophic changes linked to biodiversity loss. Iy also proposes four levels of ambition.

The next steps highlighted in the report include an evidence-based, integrated approach, focused on addressing the main pressures exerted on biodiversity and ecosystem services by specific sectors and consideration of equitable policy solutions tailored to each specific situation. Further stakeholder consultations are also envisaged

The full communication is available from here:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/policy/pdf/communication_2010_0004.pdf

More information: see CEMBUREAU focus on Biodiversity article

ENVIRONMENT

Commission rejects air quality extension requests

The European Commission rejected 92 out of 97 requests in December for extending Member States deadlines to meet EU air quality standards as set out by Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe. Almost all the requests related to limits on concentrations of particulate matter (PM10) that should have been met in 2005. The Commission did, however, extend PM10 limits in five zones in Poland until 2011.

The Directive 2008/5/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe can be found here:

http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:152:0001:0044:EN:PDF

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Binding sustainability criteria for biomass dropped

The Commission has decided not to proceed with a proposal that would have made sustainability criteria for biomass used to generate heat and power legally binding. It is likely instead that the Commission will publish a non-binding recommendation for Member States on the issue. There is also likely to be a review by the Commission in 2011 on the need for legally binding criteria.

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

Political agreement on EPBD proposal reached in Energy Council

A political agreement on the Commission's energy performance of buildings recast proposal was reached in the Energy Council on 07 December 2009. Both the Swedish Presidency and the Commission expressed their satisfaction at the adoption of the energy efficiency package - which also includes Commission proposals on energy labelling and tyre labelling - just a year after it was proposed. Both the Parliament and Council agreed that all newly constructed buildings (commercial and housing) must be "nearly-zero energy" buildings as of 2020, though all new public sector buildings will have to be "nearly-zero energy" buildings by 2018. Existing buildings will have to improve their energy performance after major renovations if technically and economically feasible. The 1000 m2 threshold for major renovation has been changed and Member States will have to choose the definition of major renovation between 2 options: a) when the total cost of renovation is higher than 25% of the total building value or b) when more than 25% of the surface of the building envelope undergoes renovation.

The Dutch delegation in Council asked for clarification from the Commission on opinions and recommendations regarding financial measures (Art. 9 a). Financial incentives will be made available to implement the Directive, an issue that has proved to be a barrier to the proper implementation of the current Directive. The Commission confirmed it would not interfere in Member State national budgetary prerogatives. Council will formally adopt the official Common Position in early 2010, after which it will be voted on by the European Parliament.

The original proposal for a Directive on the energy performance of buildings can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/strategies/2008/doc/2008_11_ser2/buildings_directive_proposal.pdf

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BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

CEMBUREAU attends construction information platform Steering Group meeting

CEMBUREAU attended the Construction Information Platform's Steering Group on 22 January to discuss the provision of a tool to facilitate access to EU information relevant to the construction sector. The web-based tool, to be called "constructioneurope.eu", has already undergone pilot development. The aim now is to upgrade certain features such as the search function, widen the information available to include information from Member States and practical information for SMEs, expand the service to 9 languages and migrate the tool to the Europa server. Industry experts, such as CEMBUREAU's Intelligence Unit, will test the new pilot portal. An Interim Report is scheduled for May 2010, with a final report in October - November 2010.

BUILDINGS & BUILDING MATERIALS

European re-building forum to be held in Brussels

The European Re-Building Forum will hold an exploratory meeting on 19 January 2010 in Brussels. The Forum will be a physical platform to encourage exchange of views among stakeholders on retrofitting existing buildings to accelerate the implementation of the 28% cost-effective savings potential in buildings by 2020.

The agenda can be found here: *www.epe.be*

HEALTH AND SAFETY

REACH Annex II on SDS: proposed revision sent to European Parliament

During its meeting on 8-9 December 2009, the REACH Committee adopted the proposal for the revised Annex II of REACH (SDS-*Safety Data Sheets). The approved text (dated 12 January 2010) has been sent to the European Parliament for consultation under the comitology procedure with scrutiny. The European Parliament now has 3 months to react. CEMBUREAU is currently preparing updated SDS templates for clinker and cement.*

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

CEMBUREAU selected to participate in REACH partner expert groups

CEMBUREAU has been selected to participate in Partner Expert Groups (PEGs) which will look into the updating and drafting of several REACH guidance documents. These include guidance on waste and recovered substances, guidance on risk communication and guidance on exposure scenarios for waste life cycle stage and corresponding exposure estimates. CEMBUREAU has also been asked to be part of the PEG for extended SDS, though the selection for this has not yet been made. CEMBUREAU members will have the opportunity to provide input into the consultation process for the different guidance documents. The draft guidance on waste and recovered substances was issued at the end of December 2009 and the draft guidance on e-SDS is expected in May 2010.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

REACH Annex V draft guidance sent to CARACAL

The revised draft guidance document on Annex V of REACH was sent to the Competent Authorities for REACH and CLP Committee (CARACAL) at the end of December 2009, following the Partner Expert Group consultation in June 2009 and a consultation of the Forum on REACH Enforcement in November 2009.

This last revised draft includes the comments submitted by IMA-Europe - REACH Alliance in October 2009 and clarifies the scope of the exemption granted to minerals according to CEMBUREAU's expectations. The text explaining the exemptions from Registration for cement clinker and petroleum coke remains unchanged, thus maintaining the exemptions.

Adoption of the final document is expected for February 2010, after the CARACAL meeting on 2-4 February 2010.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Commission preliminary findings on REACH infringements

The European Commission presentation on the preliminary findings of the REACH infringement penalties report has found that fines for infringements of the EU's REACH Regulation vary widely between Member States, and that some may not be high enough. The details from the report were presented to the European Chemical Agency (ECHA)'s third stakeholder day in December. While some Member States such as the UK and Poland have set very high sanctions, others like

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Austria and Romania have set them low, says the report. The Commission has warned that the lowest fines may not deter large producers.

The consultants' (Milieu) report, however, will not be published before March. The Commission's preliminary findings on enforcement can be found here:

http://echa.europa.eu/doc/press/events/stks_day_20090712/3rd_stk_day_pres_overview_enforcement_approach_among_ms_balcerzyk.pdf

HEALTH AND SAFETY

REACH consortium approves flue dust tests

Sample flue dust from the production of cement clinker to be used in toxicological and eco-toxicological tests has been selected from a plant using alternative fuels and alternative input materials. The test plan and laboratories appointed to carry out the tests have been approved by the Steering Committee of the REACH consortium, which at the end of 2009 was made up of 78 members from 25 different countries. The next meeting of the steering committee and technical committee of the REACH consortium is scheduled for 8 February 2010.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

ECHA releases REACH Technical Completeness check plug-in

The European Chemical Agency (ECHA) has released an IT tool designed to help companies to check the completeness of their registration dossiers before submitting them to ECHA. This new software tool is an IUCLID plug-in that works with IUCLID 5.1, and is available, free of charge on the IUCLID 5 website. The previously released Technical Completeness Check Tool for PPORD has been removed from the IUCLID website, and companies that have downloaded the old tool are advised to use the Technical Completeness Check plug-in from now on.

The IUCLID 5 website can be found here:

http://iuclid.echa.europa.eu/

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WASTE

Guidance on co-processing waste in cement kilns released

General guidance on the co-processing of waste as alternative fuels and raw materials in cement production has been produced by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. The guidelines are intended to describe "best practice" in relation to such co-processing. Stakeholders are invited to comment by the end of January. CEMBUREAU is asking its members whether they have any comments to make.

The guidance can be found here:

http://www.basel.int/techmatters/index.html

WASTE

End-of-waste criteria technical adaptation committee to meet in March

The next meeting of the technical adaptation committee on end-of-waste criteria is scheduled for the first week of March 2010, after the December meeting was cancelled. It is unlikely, however, that the Commission will be in a position by March to vote on ferrous metal and aluminium scrap. This is planned to take place by the end of 2010, after which the European Parliament will have 3 months to react. A second stakeholder workshop on paper is also scheduled for March 2010. No action has yet been taken on glass, but this stream will be looked at next, before biowaste (compost) and plastics (to be used as raw material for new products). CEMBUREAU will follow up on new developments concerning biowaste and plastics end-of-waste.

WASTE

JRC end-of-waste reports on steel and aluminium scrap published

JRC-IPTS reports on end-of-waste criteria for iron steel scrap and aluminium scrap have been published. These documents were sent to the Committee for Adaptation to Scientific and Technical Progress (TAC) of the Waste Framework Directive for comments by 3 December, and were up for adoption during the meeting of the TAC on Waste of 7 December 2009. The documents will be used for the work of the WG2 Ad Hoc Group on End-of-waste.

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WASTE

Commission regulation on animal by-products being drafted

The Commission has drawn up a preliminary draft law that would lay down technical details for rules established in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 on animal by-products. The Commission has started work on such implementing measures in order to have them ready for the date of application of the parent Regulation on animal by-products, which is the 4 March 2011. The parent Regulation on animal by-products was published in the Official Journal on 14/11/09 and entered into force on 04/12/09.

Regulation 1069/2009 can be found here:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:300:0001:0033:EN:PDF

CEMBUREAU

CEMBUREAU focus on biodiversity

2010 is the international year of biodiversity. As such, and in relation to the work being conducted within the cement industry in terms of quarry rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation, CEMBUREAU will be teaming up with other extractive industry sectors to present the work which has so far been undertaken. More information will be made available shortly.

More information: see *Commission Communication on Biodiversity article*

CEMBUREAU

CEMBUREAU launches new website

At the end of January, CEMBUREAU launched its new, more user friendly website. The website contains all CEMBUREAU positions as well as the Association's opinion on a number of key topics. In addition, an online database of biodiversity case studies is available. Readers are invited to take a tour of this new site to learn more about the work of CEMBUREAU:

www.cembureau.eu

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CEMBUREAU responds to Commission consultation on EU 2020 Strategy

CEMBUREAU has responded to a Commission public consultation on the EU 2020 Strategy. The consultation paper sets out a vision for how EU 2020 will help consolidate economic recovery and prevent crises in future. In its response, CEMBUREAU focused on investing in infrastructure, renewing Europe's building stock, alternative fuels & raw materials, the substitution of clinker with alternative constituents and sustainable construction.

CEMBUREAU said that the European Commission should consider how encouraging the construction of infrastructure (such as transport infrastructure) can improve the competitiveness of Europe, and suggested that national financial support should be increased to maintain investment in research and innovation. Additional steps should also be taken to encourage the development of energy efficient structures through closer cooperation with industry.

The response also encouraged the EU to introduce mechanisms to increase the rate of renewal of Europe's building stock. CEMBRUEAU said that the construction of new, energy efficient buildings and the refurbishment of existing buildings will lead to energy savings and CO2 emission reductions. This can be achieved by, for example, making low or zero carbon buildings financially attractive through substantial financial incentives for new collective forms of housing which prove more energy efficient than individual housing (funded through, for example, the revenues generated by the Emission Trading Scheme and, where applicable, national carbon taxes).

CEMBUREAU also emphasised in its response that co-processing waste in cement plant presents the cement industry with a solid opportunity to reduce global CO2 emissions. Without co-processing, wrote CEMBUREAU, the waste and by-products which make up these materials would have to be incinerated or landfilled with corresponding greenhouse gas emissions. Alternative raw materials should also be encouraged. Alternative raw materials can be used to replace the traditional raw materials extracted from quarries, such as clay, shale and limestone, which are used in the kiln. CEMBUREAU's response also highlighted the fact that the substitution of clinker in cement is an example of the positive contribution the European cement industry can make to resource management. Finally, CEMBUREAU highlighted in its response to the Commission the work done in relation to sustainable construction.

The deadline for responses to the consultation was 15 January 2010. The Commission intends to make a detailed proposal to the Spring European Council.

The full consultation document can be found here:

http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/eu2020_en.pdf

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OTHER NEWS

Barroso outlines priorities for commissioners designate

The specific responsibilities and priorities of the new climate commissioner have been outlined by Commission President JosÃ© Manuel Barroso. Climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard will focus on efforts to achieve the EU's CO2 target, and will coordinate the EU ETS with other national cap-and-trade schemes. The new climate commissioner will also be involved in promoting low-carbon technologies. The EU's new environment commissioner, Janez PotoÄ•nik (formerly Commissioner for science and technology) is tasked with presenting action plans for eco-innovation, environmental technologies and sustainable consumption and production. Mr PotoÄ•nik will also focus on biodiversity loss. (see ***Commission Communication on Biodiversity article*)*. The new energy commissioner GÃ¼nter Oettinger will focus on a long-term strategy to decarbonise energy supplies, and build upon the EU's energy efficiency action plan. Mission letters from President Barroso to the Commissioners designate can be found here:***

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_designate_2009-2014/mission_letters/index_en.htm

CEMBUREAU

CEMBUREAU joins ECRA Advisory Board

In December 2009 CEMBUREAU was formally invited to have a seat on the ECRA Technical Advisory Board. ECRA is a success story in the cement industry and the strong cooperation between the two organisations has been very fruitful and has added strength and value to CEMBUREAU. The Association is thus confident that this will be further developed in the future

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