

IFIEC Europe-press release

Level Playing Field for Climate Policies seems to stay idle wish

Brussels, 2 April 2015 – Heads of State and Government will negotiate a new international climate agreement in Paris in December 2015. Having failed to reach an ambitious climate deal several times in the past, Paris seems to be the last chance for such an agreement. The UN's deadline for negotiating parties to submit their Intended Nationally-Determined Contributions (INDCs) ended on 31 March. In the light of only seven submissions so far, IFIEC Europe expresses its disappointment as a truly global approach for climate protection - with a global level playing field for industries - seems to recede into the distance.

Until today, only Switzerland, the EU, Mexico, Norway, Gabon, the US and Russia have presented their individual targets. The announced contributions, however, cannot be named ambitious. The US have announced to reduce their emissions by 26 to 28 % until 2025 compared to 2005. Using the EU reference year 1990, though, this only means a reduction of about 15 %. Russia admittedly uses the same year as the EU but argues that its forests should be calculated as a contribution to its mitigation efforts. Proposals from important emitters like China, India or Brazil are still completely missing.

The currently presented contributions only account for about 30 % of global GHG emissions, and there is barely one approach that is comparable to the challenging 40% reduction target of the EU. "At this point in time, there is no basis for speaking of positive prospects for an ambitious Kyoto succession deal, with equal requirements for global industries", says Dr. Annette Loske, Chair of IFIEC Europe's Working Party Climate and Efficiency.

If this does not drastically improve, the EU will remain alone with its front-running climate strategy and there will be no perspective for an international level playing-field for energy-intensive industries. Dr. Annette Loske concludes: "A unilateral approach cannot work: it will put at risk the positive contributions of our efficient industries, and absolute carbon reductions will only be reached by stopping to manufacture here. What we need is to consider a workable alternate climate and industry policy in case the Paris negotiations fail to reach truly comparable efforts for competing industries".

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IFIEC Europe, International Federation of Industrial Energy Consumers, represents European energy intensive industrial consumers where energy is a major component of operating costs and directly affects competitiveness.

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