

Press Release: Real action to follow the Paris agreement is needed to combat global warming

Brussels, 14 December 2015

IFIEC Europe, representing EU energy intensive manufacturing industry, sees the result of the Paris climate agreement as an important step for common action to combat global warming throughout the world. After 2 weeks of difficult negotiations, this result can give an important impulse for broader worldwide action against global warming, and consequently lead to a more level playing field for manufacturing industry in the different global competing regions. But, for the time being, this agreement is more a non-binding declaration of intention than a concrete action plan.

It is of paramount importance how governments will act after returning home. Restoring a more level playing field is essential for EU manufacturing industry. Today, we face a significant disadvantage when compared to non EU based competitors. This is linked to higher climate and energy costs pushed up by regulations aiming to implement an energy turnaround in isolation. It is now up to the other major global regions to choose a similar path to a low carbon future, as agreed in Paris. As a result the cost gap should decrease and could make EU industry to regain its competitiveness and keep delivering innovative technological solutions. This is the smartest way to design the world's low carbon future without harming EU social welfare.

“Paris is a promising start, whereas real action will have to give the proof of worldwide intentions to combat global warming” says Annette Loske, President of IFIEC Europe. “The EU should check these actions of other regions thoroughly when designing its own climate policy. Combating global warming is a team effort; it can only be done together with all nations and industry worldwide.” Therefore, IFIEC Europe's message is also for the future: Manufacturing industry support is essential in combating global warming. European manufacturing industries are the source of innovation and innovative solutions making our low carbon future possible and worth living.

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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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