Climate change

The EU’s 2007 Climate and Energy Package with its ambitious 2020 targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to increase the share of renewable energy and to improve energy efficiency has triggered a policy and legislative agenda with far-reaching consequences for European companies.

For companies it is essential to operate in a predictable EU policy framework which integrates climate protection, energy security as well as competitiveness concerns. The EU policy agenda should include in particular:

- implementation of the revised EU Emission Trading Scheme (ETS), ensuring that it does not hurt the competitiveness of European industry;
- fostering a truly global and balanced climate agreement, including the world’s major emitters;
- development of an overarching EU energy policy, creating the clear strategic framework needed for definition of a coherent and effective climate policy;
- strengthening of EU research and capabilities in low-carbon technologies;
- full exploitation of the cost-effective energy efficiency possibilities that fall within the ambit of business, consumers and the public sector;
- facilitation, reform and expansion of the Kyoto Protocol’s flexible mechanisms (Clean Development Mechanism and Joint Implementation) to make a contribution to climate protection.

Publications

A competitive EU energy and climate policy
25 June 2013 - iPAD-2013-00699-E.pdf (1.7 MB)
BUSINESSEUROPE recommendations for a 2030 framework for energy and climate policies - The stakes for European companies are very high in the new energy, climate and competitiveness package for the 2020-2030 period. The European Union has committed to strengthening its industrial base by increasing the share of industry in overall GDP from 15 to 20% by 2020. This industrial growth agenda requires a rethink of our energy and climate policies to transform them into true industrial growth drivers. With unemployment at record levels and increased industrial competition from emerging countries and the United States, we have to tackle the energy cost challenge head on.

Combating climate change - Four key principles for a successful international agreement
14 October 2009 - iPAD-2008-01859-E.pdf (2 MB)
European companies actively support the EU climate change objectives. But unilateral action will not solve the problem. A pragmatic global approach is needed which ensures that emission reductions in one place do not simply lead to emission increases somewhere else in the world. In view of the international climate change conferences in Poznan and Copenhagen, BUSINESSEUROPE is proposing four key principles that should guide negotiations towards a successful international agreement on combating climate change: mobilise all major economies to reduce emissions as soon as possible; establish a level playing field for industry throughout the world; strengthen global market mechanisms to reduce emissions, linking developed and developing regions; ensure all cost-efficient climate technologies are deployed and developed.

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Emissions trading scheme (ETS)
(16 March 2015) - iPAD-2015-00255-E.pdf (149 kB)
BUSINESSEUROPE response to the consultation on the revision of the EU ETS Directive