

Position Paper

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CEPI welcomes 2050 Roadmap to a low carbon economy

On March 8th the European Commission published the 2050 Roadmap to a low carbon economy. CEPI, the European Pulp and Paper Industry Confederation welcomes this publication as an interesting exploration on the coming 40 years. Meeting the Copenhagen Accord of -2 degrees, and the EU Council ambition of reducing CO2 emissions by -80 to -95% requires a structural system change. The right policy framework needs to create a system in which industry keeps the financial ability to make the necessary investments in Europe to be competitive in the world.

Solutions are sector specific

The Commission understands that sustainable solutions are sector specific and states that they have to be developed in cooperation with the sectors concerned. CEPI is already drafting a 2050 pulp and paper industry roadmap, to be published in November 2011. Although the roadmaps can only be based on modelling of the future, they should not result in "policymaking by modelling". Instead the outcomes should be used to engage with stakeholders and perform impact assessments in the widest sense as the base for policy making. Common intermediate targets are in this case a problem and not a solution. Technology roadmaps are part of the solution as not even the best measures can deliver results when physical limits of technology are reached. An EU system to push for breakthrough technologies and support emerging technologies is much desired.

Keeping the 20% target is positive

The proposed roadmap focuses on action instead of the debate on a 30% reduction target by 2020. The conditions for moving to -30% have not been met in Copenhagen or Cancun. As unilateral actions are not the way forward, the choice that considers energy efficiency in meeting or even passing the CO2 target makes sense and takes into account investments already made.

A set aside of credits harms the ETS

The EU Emission Trading System is built on the trust the participants have in the market. "Proposals to set aside carbon market credits, by not auctioning them, aimed at artificially increasing carbon prices, are the wrong measure, not only harming the reputation of the ETS and the functioning of the market but also industries competitiveness", says Teresa Presas, MD of CEPI.

CEPI welcomes the clear recognition of the role of the CAP

As a forest based sector, the fact that the Commission Roadmap addresses as well the emissions from agriculture and forestry is crucial. "The Roadmap shows the enormous demand for biomass to meet the renewable energy targets. It is encouraging to finally see that the role for the Common Agricultural Policy is mentioned in supplying the biomass for energy", says Marco Mensink, Deputy MD of CEPI.



Note to the Editor

CEPI aisbl - The Confederation of European Paper Industries

The Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation regrouping the European pulp and paper industry and championing this industry's achievements and the benefits of its products. Its mission is to promote the members' business sector by taking specific actions notably, by monitoring and analysing activities and initiatives in the areas of industry, environment, energy, forestry, recycling, fiscal policies and competitiveness in general. Through CEPI, the paper industry increases its visibility and acts on emerging issues, making expert and constructive contributions on behalf of the industry.

Its collective expertise provides a unique source of information both for and on the industry; coordinating essential exchanges of experience and knowledge among its members, the ability to provide technical assistance to legislators and to identify independent experts on specific issues. Through its 19 member countries (17 European Union members plus Norway and Switzerland) CEPI represents some 700 pulp, paper and board producing companies across Europe, ranging from small and medium sized companies to multi-nationals, and 1020 pulp and paper mills. Together they represent 24% of world production.

Website: www.cepi.org