

Brussels, 21 March 2014

PRESS RELEASE

COUNCIL DEBATES INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS & CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY -
EUROMETAUX CALLS FOR CONCRETE ACTION

Brussels, 21 March 2014: The European non-ferrous metals industry calls for urgent actions to support growth and investments.

European companies in the metals industry are providing solutions for the development of a competitive sustainable society in Europe and worldwide with their high environmental and energy efficiency.

"However, for this to happen, enabling policies must be put in place, and the detrimental effects of certain EU legislation urgently addressed. All the good intentions expressed to restore industrial competitiveness are highly welcome, but they have still not been translated into concrete and effective measures, particularly in order to secure competitive energy costs. It is extremely urgent to act to prevent any further de-industrialisation, carbon and investment leakage, and job losses" commented Guy Thiran, Director-General of Eurometaux.

As a globally priced industry, the non-ferrous metals sector cannot pass additional costs down the value chain. "This is why any additional costs, in particular those resulting from unilateral legislation imposed on European operators, immediately damage industry's competitiveness. Our industry continues to support ambitious climate protection policies provided that they are accompanied by compensation measures for related electricity cost increases, and an effective international agreement. Indeed, a global level-playing field is a precondition for successfully working towards a bright and innovative future. Now is the time to act and bring solutions to the table!" Mr. Thiran concluded.

Eurometaux continues to call upon the Member States to focus their debate on concrete solutions for maintaining an industrial base that is vital for the transition to a low-carbon economy.

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Eurometaux, the Brussels-based EU association of the non-ferrous metals industry, represents the whole value chain of the non-ferrous metals industry in Europe, from mining and primary production to semi-finished, end-use products and recycling. The European aluminium industry directly employs about 500,000 people and contributes to about 2% of the EU's GDP.

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