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2030 Climate Target Plan Impact Inception Assessment

-Euromines Position -

As the recognized representative of the European mineral raw materials industry covering more than 42 different metals and minerals and employing 350.000 directly and about four times as many indirectly, Euromines welcomes a European Green Deal to put Europe on the right track to a sustainable future and is prepared to take the necessary measures to make it the world's first climate neutral continent.

At the same time, we believe that efforts, climate ambitions and targets should be aligned with the fundamental principle of sustainable development, ensure the essential current needs and safeguard the needs of future generations while contributing to the economic, social and environmental development. Therefore, the 2030 Climate Target Plan should carefully assess how to increase the ambition in a manner that best contributes to sustainable and inclusive growth and enhances economic competitiveness through accelerating innovation and developing Europe's industry. Climate transition and competitiveness must go hand in hand. It is crucial that in the transition to become climate neutral, the industry can maintain and even improve competitiveness. It is our strong conviction that when setting the 2030 climate targets, a consistent, stable and predictable value chain approach should also be guaranteed by considering the following aspects:

1. A feasible 2030 climate target level

The 2030 climate targets should be set in such a way as to not only lead to the achievement of the 2050 climate goals but also allow Europe to remain competitive, and new technologies and innovations to be developed and implemented. The updated 2030 target should protect and even enhance the sustainable development of the industry, particularly the energy-intensive sectors that are most vulnerable to unilateral carbon and energy cost increases.

2. A systemic approach along integrated value chains

Assessing and ensuring compliance with a medium- and long-term target requires multiple actors along the entire value chain to act simultaneously towards the same objective. Contributing to the achievement of the 2030 and 2050 climate targets should be a joint effort in which all stakeholders bring their input and value added. Only through an integrated value chain approach can real advances in climate change be achieved.

3. Time

Updating the 2030 climate targets should also take into consideration the period necessary to comply and achieve such objectives. Big industrial projects require time to adapt, develop and use the technologies necessary to safeguard conformity with the new requirements. At the same time, reducing emissions in order to contribute to climate neutrality and meet the zero-pollution ambition requires new technologies that first need to be tested and deployed at scale. In this context, a stepped approach taking technology shifts for different sectors into account is crucial.

4. Stimulating investments in low-carbon products and technologies

According to estimates, European industries need to invest €250 billion on an annual basis for the next ten years in order to stay on track with the 2050 climate neutrality objective. The mineral raw materials industry is already a front runner and has already taken several measures to improve its energy efficiency and decrease emissions. Our industry is committed to take the step to net-zero emissions but there is a need for financial support. Also, electrification is key for many industries to reach their climate target, which requires access to fossil-free electricity at competitive prices and the reimbursement of indirect costs for industries facing higher electricity prices. The financing instruments at EU and Member States level should continue to be present and to facilitate investments. Support for development, piloting and up-scaling of key innovative decarbonisation and energy efficiency technologies is still needed.

5. The EU Green Deal policy mix

It is our belief that the different EU Green Deal related pieces of legislation should be coherent, holistic, ensure stability and avoid overlapping on a medium and long term, especially when it comes to the relation energy efficiency and/or the emissions trading system (ETS). They should complement each other in supporting the industry to become climate neutral by getting the incentives right.

Many industrial players already have committed through their recent industrial roadmaps to achieving the objective of a climate-neutral Europe by 2050 and have already set several plans and strategies in place. A close dialogue with the industrial sectors about what measures is most effective in supporting their roadmap to climate neutrality.

In conclusion, Euromines would like to underline one more time the importance of the mineral raw materials industry as part of the solution for achieving the 2030 climate targets. As the first segment of most value chains, our industry is a prerequisite for achieving the climate objectives as it can be considered both a 'greening by' and a 'greening of' activity.

About Euromines

Euromines, the European Association of Mining, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals, represents large and small companies and subsidiaries in Europe and in other parts of the world which provide jobs to more than 350,000 people. Through the activities and operations of these members, more than 42 different metals and minerals are produced. Their sustainable exploitation can increase Europe's supply of mineral resources, help ease imports from third countries usually applying lower environmental, corporate and social standards and foster the socio-economic growth of Europe's Regions. The European mineral raw materials industry plays a crucial role in the EU ability to nurture sustainable growth including access to and supply of raw materials, providing over 30 million jobs and playing a key role in the development of modern environmentally friendly technologies.