



## **4<sup>th</sup> European Coal Days – joint statement of EURACOAL and CEEP**

**Brussels (14<sup>th</sup> November, 2013)** – The 4<sup>th</sup> European Coal Days, hosted by MEPs Christian Ehler (EPP, Germany) and Bogdan Marcinkiewicz (EPP, Poland), concluded today in the European Parliament with a breakfast event chaired by MEP Jan Březina (EPP, Czech Republic) to launch a new edition of EURACOAL’s “Coal industry across Europe”.

Taking place at the same time as COP-19 – the important UNFCCC climate conference in Warsaw – the aim of the coal days was to bring to the attention of policy makers how clean coal technologies offer an immediate step towards a low-emissions economy. In a world where 1.3 billion people have no access to electricity and where China’s *growth* in coal consumption last year exactly matched the *total* annual output from the European coal industry – 130 million tonnes – there can be no getting away from the need for a global solution to the climate challenge. The European Union acting alone can make little difference to the global picture. Being abundant and affordable, coal will be used for decades to come to meet modern society’s legitimate demand for energy. Adopting cleaner, more efficient and more flexible coal technologies is not an option ... it is an imperative.

At a dinner debate hosted by the European Energy Forum and chaired by MEP Jerzy Buzek (EPP, Poland), the Deputy Prime Minister of Poland and Minister for the Economy, Mr. Janusz Piechociński, explained his country’s position towards coal. With about 88% of Poland’s electricity coming from coal, it is not about to turn its back on its vast indigenous coal and lignite resources. However, it will take steps to improve the way coal is used and develop alternatives. Investment in new coal-fired power plants is planned, renewable energy will be promoted and nuclear power remains desirable in a country that relies on Russia for almost 80% of its natural gas imports.

On average, 27% of EU electricity production comes from coal. In fact, it is only coal that provides any real competition to natural gas in the electricity market. Subsidised renewables and base-load nuclear always run – even when wholesale prices are zero. Take coal out of the equation and there would be no limit to the already high premium demanded by suppliers of natural gas.

Organised by the European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) and the Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), the three-day event saw the coal industry issue a “call for action” by way of a communiqué developed in co-operation with the Polish Ministry of Economy.

The *Warsaw Communiqué* calls for the immediate use of high-efficiency, low-emissions coal combustion technologies, wherever economic and technically feasible at existing and new power plants, as an immediate step in lowering greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants around the world and as a necessary milestone towards the deployment of carbon capture utilisation and storage technologies (CCS), once these are demonstrated and commercialised.

# 4TH EUROPEAN COAL DAYS

Governments should set an ambitious pathway before COP-20, to move the global average efficiency of coal-fired power generation plants to current state-of-the-art levels and to support R&D efforts to further improve the efficiency of coal combustion technologies.

International financial institutions, such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, should support developing countries and countries in Central and Eastern Europe in accessing clean coal Best Available Technologies (BAT), including high-efficiency, low-emissions coal combustion technologies.

With a clear, long-term framework and with a government commitment to a CCS infrastructure, the coal industry can get on with its job of investing for the future. This is demonstrated today with some new investment in modern coal-fired power plants around Europe – for example, in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey – but the investment is patchy and insufficient. To quickly reduce emissions, the EU's 230 GW of coal-fired power plants require faster renewal and modernisation – three times faster than today. A long-term commitment to clean coal would allow industry to raise finance and deliver tangible benefits, including a more than 30% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the oldest plants.

The *Warsaw Communiqué* will be presented by the World Coal Association to world leaders at the COP-19 conference as a practical and pragmatic approach that balances economic development and energy security with environmental objectives.

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