

## EURACOAL Press Release

### *Coal industry across Europe 2011 – a new EURACOAL report*

**Brussels (6 October 2011)** – Today, at the European Parliament in Brussels, EURACOAL launched a new edition of “Coal industry across Europe” at a breakfast event hosted by Czech MEP **Mr. Jan BŘEZINA**.

EURACOAL Vice President, **Mr. Phil GARNER** spoke at the launch where he said that a competitive European coal industry underpins competitive electricity prices. “These are the stimulus for economic growth and the well-being of EU citizens”, he added.

Within the report’s 80 pages, readers will find information on the coal industry across the whole of the EU-27 and Europe’s Energy Community: from Portugal in the west to Ukraine in the east, and from Finland in the north to Turkey in the south – many represented among EURACOAL’s 35 members from 20 countries. Up-to-date statistics on coal resources and reserves, coal production and consumption, coal trade and power generation from coal are all presented. For the first time, a section is included to show more clearly how European coal use fits within the global picture of ever-rising coal use as developing countries rely more and more on coal to electrify their fast-growing economies. The report also examines the connections between energy policy, R&D, climate protection and socio-economic development within European policy.

In his introduction, EURACOAL President **Dr. Hartmuth ZEISS** observes that if we want to develop a secure, competitive and sustainable energy system for the coming decades, we need an open and honest debate on energy policy. He invites all stakeholders to contribute to a conversation with EURACOAL on coal and energy matters in general. **Mr. Günther H. OETTINGER**, European Commissioner for Energy, writes in his foreword that such a dialogue is an important part of European policy making, whilst noting that, “Major challenges lay ahead of us in the quest for ever more secure and sustainable energy at competitive prices.” He commends EURACOAL for producing a detailed report that will inform debate.

At the launch, **Mr. BŘEZINA** expressed his view that Europe should exploit its indigenous coal reserves. He warned against a climate policy that isolated the EU, preferring the promotion of environmentally friendly coal mining and investment in high-efficiency power stations. **Mr. GARNER** agreed and observed that in the European Parliament and in capital cities around Europe, the coal industry should not be afraid to explain the important role that coal plays in ensuring economic competitiveness and energy security during the transition to a low-carbon future.

*Coal industry across Europe 2011* can be downloaded at:  
[www.euracoal.org/pages/medien.php?idpage=903](http://www.euracoal.org/pages/medien.php?idpage=903)

Photographs and notes for editors follow below.

# EURACOAL

European Association  
for Coal and Lignite  
AISBL



Mr. Jan BŘEZINA MEP and EURACOAL Vice President, Mr. Phil GARNER of UK COAL plc at the launch of EURACOAL's new publication *Coal industry across Europe 2011* in the European Parliament, Brussels, 6 October 2011.



Mr. Jan BŘEZINA MEP addresses guests at the launch of EURACOAL's new publication *Coal industry across Europe* in the European Parliament, Brussels, 6 October 2011.



EURACOAL Vice President, Mr. Phil GARNER of UK COAL plc, presents EURACOAL's new publication *Coal industry across Europe 2011* in the European Parliament, Brussels, 6 October 2011.

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## Notes for editors:

- Coal meets over one quarter of world energy demand (27%), second only to crude oil (33%).
- The EU consumes around 720 million tonnes of coal each year, 10% of the world total of 7 230 million tonnes. China is the largest consumer (3 320 million tonnes) followed by the USA (960 million tonnes).
- Coal is the No. 1 fuel for electricity generation: 27% of the EU electricity demand is met by coal and 41% globally.
- Indigenous coal production of 530 million tonnes brings security of supply benefits and added value to the EU economy.
- Over 255 000 people are directly employed in the EU coal industry, supplying fuel worth €27 billion each year.
- EU legislation ensures that some of the world's cleanest and most efficient coal-fired power plants are found in European countries. For example, the Nordjyllandsværket power plant in Denmark where half of the country's electricity comes from coal, all imported from a competitive global market.
- Investing in new coal-fired power plants, up to 30% more efficient than many existing plants, reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at a much lower cost and with greater certainty than any alternative.
- Planning for a low-emission future means that new coal- and gas-fired power plants must be built with enough space for CO<sub>2</sub> capture to be retrofitted and a potential route to CO<sub>2</sub> storage identified. Once CCS technology is proven at a large scale and becomes commercially available, retrofits can then proceed.
- The Coal Round in the European Parliament is a non-party political grouping of MEPs with an interest in coal.

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