



3rd European Coal Days – joint statement of CEEP, EURACOAL and WCA

Brussels (15th November, 2012) – The 3rd European Coal Days, hosted by MEPs Ehler (EPP, Germany) and Marcinkiewicz (EPP, Poland), concluded today in the European Parliament with a breakfast event chaired by MEP Garriga Polledo (EPP, Spain) and the launch of a new strategy for clean coal.

Jointly organised by the European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL), the World Coal Association (WCA) and the Central Europe Energy Partners (CEEP), the three-day event saw coal industry leaders from around the world gather in Brussels to meet with politicians and officials. Together, they examined the future of coal in Europe and the world at workshops in the European Parliament, a high-level dialogue in the EESC and a European Energy Forum dinner debate chaired by MEP Buzek (EPP, Poland).

Participants heard from the International Energy Agency, the Electric Power Development Company (EPDC or J-Power) of Japan, Eskom in South Africa and the TharPak Consortium in Pakistan about how modern clean coal technologies can offer high-efficiency and low-emission power generation at an affordable cost. These technologies allow both developed and developing nations to meet growing electricity demand cleanly and competitively. Coal's contribution to poverty alleviation was examined with the stark conclusion that many EU citizens live in energy poverty and would benefit from a more open internal energy market in which coal could compete freely. Competitively priced energy would also help to restore industrial competitiveness in the EU.

A common theme throughout the Coal Days was the steps that need to be taken to a more sustainable future. Coal is the world's fastest-growing source of energy and will remain indispensable as global energy demand rises. It is, after all, the world's most abundant fossil fuel and successfully competes against other energy sources. The common challenge for all 90 coal-using nations is to reduce emissions of CO₂ whilst maintaining a competitive energy supply. This challenge lies at the very core of sustainable development: governments must balance economic development with social needs and quality of the environment. The following three-step clean coal strategy, launched during the Coal Days and supported by CEEP, EURACOAL and WCA, responds to this challenge:

1. Introduce state-of-the-art technology across the EU coal-fired generation sector to boost efficiency and reduce emissions.
2. Develop the next generation of high-efficiency flexible technologies for coal-fired electricity generation.
3. Demonstrate and deploy CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) at coal-fired power stations around the world.



To facilitate these steps to a cleaner future, policy makers everywhere must:

- encourage what is possible today – power plant modernisation and renewal;
- prepare for what will be possible tomorrow – R&D;
- plan for the day after tomorrow – the deployment of CCS;
- set clear long-term targets and refrain from making short-term interventions; and
- invest in CO₂ transport infrastructure so that CCS can deliver its potential.

With a clear, long-term framework and with a government commitment to a CCS infrastructure, 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, but the investment is 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 as a necessary part of a diverse energy mix would allow industry to raise finance and deliver tangible benefits, including a more than 30% reduction in CO₂ emissions from the oldest plants with the construction of new, more efficient coal-fired plants that are ready for CCS, once this technology is commercial.

The clean coal strategy has been submitted to the European Parliament and the European Commission as the latest “voice” of organisations tackling coal issues.

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