

## Press Release

### Report on economic benefits of low CO<sub>2</sub> vehicles shows key role for lightweighting

**Brussels, 18 March 2013:** The European Aluminium Association (EAA) welcomes the results of a comprehensive study on the ["Economic Assessment of Low Carbon Vehicles"](#), undertaken by Cambridge Econometrics and Ricardo-AEA, and supported by various organisations, such as the European Climate Foundation, Eurelectric, CLEPA and the EAA as well as individual companies like General Electric and Nissan.

The study shows that the move towards reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles can have a positive impact on job creation and the economy, thanks to:

- increased spending on innovative technologies in Europe;
- decreased spending on imported energy sources such as oil;
- increased consumer spending in other sectors

*"The study especially highlights that weight reduction has the greatest potential for reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and bringing economic value", states Gerd Götz, EAA Director General. The use of aluminium is one of the best options for car manufacturers to lighten the vehicles and as such their emissions, not only for 'traditional' vehicles but also for electric vehicles. "Opting for lightweight solutions not only has a positive climate impact, but also a real economic advantage, a must in the current economic situation".*

The EAA calls upon decision-makers to take advantage of the current negotiations on the EU regulation on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from vehicles to ensure that regulations are technologically neutral and optimise the potential for all types of technologies' to contribute to lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As stated in the study, a change to a footprint based regulation is needed to achieve the full lightweighting potential.

The EAA also welcomes that the next phase of the project will focus on competitiveness and skills, two crucial elements in securing that as many of the new jobs as possible are created in Europe.

#### **About the European Aluminium Association:**

The European Aluminium Association, founded in 1981, represents the European aluminium industry from alumina and primary production to semi-finished and end-use products, through to recycling. The European aluminium industry directly employs about 255,000 people. *For information, please visit [www.alueurope.eu](http://www.alueurope.eu)*

**About the study:** Cambridge Econometrics (CE), in collaboration with Ricardo-AEA, is currently undertaking a research project to assess the economic impact of decarbonising light-duty vehicles (cars and vans). The project was commissioned by the European Climate Foundation and was informed by a core working group of experts in the motor vehicles industry as well as other interested stakeholders. Download the study [here](#)

#### **For further information, please contact:**

Erich Cuaz, Public Affairs and Communication Director  
Tel +32 (0)2 775 63 59, Email [cuaz@eaa.be](mailto:cuaz@eaa.be)