

Press Statement

MSR Vote: A strong call for an urgent ETS reform and EU-wide compensation for EU ETS indirect costs

Brussels, 23 February 2015: In response to today's vote in the European Parliament's ENVI Committee on the ETS Market Stability Reserve, Director-General of the European Aluminium Association Gerd Götz issues the following statement:

"We strongly support today's acknowledgement from a wide spectrum of political groups and MEPs of the urgent need to address indirect carbon costs at European level under an urgent ETS reform. These costs are embedded in electricity prices and cannot be passed on due to aluminium's global pricing, thereby placing European aluminium producers at a unique competitive disadvantage. Following the October Council Conclusions in which the Member States called on the Commission to take concrete action, today's vote represents yet another strong call for concrete actions in support of the competitiveness of Europe's most exposed industries.

What is now critical is for the European Commission to deliver a proposal for a comprehensive review of the ETS, including an effective and pan-European compensation scheme to offset the unsustainable energy bills crippling our industry. This should be the natural complement to an earlier introduction of the MSR, particularly as the mechanism will drive up the carbon price. This is key to stop investment leakage and restore the competitiveness of one of Europe's most dynamic and innovative industries once and for all".

About the European Aluminium Association:

The European Aluminium Association, founded in 1981, represents the whole value chain of the aluminium industry in Europe, from alumina and primary production to semi-finished, end-use products and recycling. The European aluminium industry directly employs about 255,000 people and yields an annual turnover of 36.8 billion €. For information, please visit www.alueurope.eu

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