

## ACHIEVING AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT EUROPE

**EUUnited Metallurgy** meets the challenge and considers economic, environmental and social issues comprehensively. It is committed to the principles of sustainable development by taking care of ecological and economical aspects. Therefore, it is very important to us to contribute to an environmentally and socially responsible economic and competitive development.

**EUUnited Metallurgy** supports the central goals of EU environmental policy, and sees the different roadmaps as starting points for further discussions on future policy options and choices to improve the environmental performance via innovative technologies.

Energy efficiency is a central element of the EU's 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth<sup>1)</sup> and the transition to a more resource-efficient economy. Energy efficiency – meaning that less energy is used at a constant level of economic activity or service– is one of the most cost-effective ways to improve energy security and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. In many ways, energy efficiency can be seen as Europe's largest energy resource. Therefore, the EU has set itself for 2020 the goal of saving 20% of primary energy consumption compared to projections, and therefore, this goal was highlighted in the Commission Communication "Energy 2020"<sup>2)</sup> as an important step towards achieving EU's long-term energy and climate protection goals.

EU environmental policy, with its bases, EUROPE 2020 targets and EUROPE 2020 strategy already in place, must now be geared up to achieve substantial greenhouse gas emission reductions by 2050<sup>3)</sup> in a way which brings about new opportunities and makes most sense in terms of energy and resource efficiency, sustainability, competitiveness as well as economic and social impacts.

In the general context of sustainable development and, in particular, of moving towards sustainable production and consumption, environmental issues should be managed along all stages of the product life-cycle. This contributes to minimizing the overall negative environmental effects of products and their manufacturing. Environmental concerns, however, cannot be regarded in isolation and must be integrated alongside other aspects of products such as performance, quality and safety.

About 20% of primary energy consumption in the EU is allotted to the industry<sup>4)</sup>. In this sector the advances in energy efficiency were the highest, with a reduction in energy intensity by 30% over 20 years. Nonetheless there are still valuable energy savings possible.

Steel, aluminum, lead, copper, zinc and other nonferrous metals stand for successful balances, concrete achievements and for knowledge- and technology-based solutions that combine prosperity and development to achieve effective climate protection and efficient use of resources. The metallurgical plant builders are committed to enable high-tech equipment to improve resource efficiency and abate GHG emissions in the metallurgical industry. The savings potential provided by our industry is an integral part of the industrial policies and activities to combat global warming.

<sup>1)</sup> KOM(2010) 2020  
<sup>2)</sup> KOM(2010) 639  
<sup>3)</sup> 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050  
<sup>4)</sup> year 2008, see "Energy, transport and environment indicators," Eurostat, 2010 edition