

# Social Dialogue of the European Chemical Industry



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Mr. José Manuel Barroso  
President of the European Commission  
European Commission

B - 1049 Bruxelles

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## **EU target in emissions savings**

Dear President Barroso,

The European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) and the European Chemical Energy and Mineworkers Union (EMCEF) are the European Commission recognised social partners for the chemical industry. As social partners we are committed to the aims and objectives of the European Union and its institutions including the delivery of a low carbon economy.

We are writing to you as the heads of the EU institutions in relation to the Union's recognition of the importance of tackling climate change, something we fully support. The social partners were very relieved to see that in its final Communication (26 May), reviewing the options for moving beyond the EU's 20% target in emissions savings, the European Commission decided not to recommend a unilateral move to a 30% target. The priority should be to handle the unprecedented economic crisis, its impact on the real economy and on the social development in the European Union. However we have detected a change in tone from each of the European institutions, suggesting there is no need to wait for global commitments and Europe should take a lead on this point. This is wrong and the European Union should collectively make clear that any 30% target is contingent on the implementation of a legally binding international agreement. We invite you as the leaders of Europe to urgently and jointly provide that clarity.

The chemical industry is uniquely placed to drive economic and environmental improvement to our continent. The European chemical industry is an enabler of

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solutions for societal needs. The products and technologies of our sector are leading the fight against climate change and we are doing this in an environmentally responsible way. An independent report found that the products of the chemical industry, such as insulation and innovations in engine efficiency, currently help deliver greenhouse gas savings 2-3 times greater than their emissions; the report concludes that with an effective global policy framework, this could rise to a ratio of more than 4:1 by 2030.

We are concerned that the economic recovery of our industry and the Union itself including much needed employment opportunities will be put at risk by a 'Europe only' move to 30%. Adding this constraint will discourage investment in our continent. In advance of the European Summit of the Heads of State and Government and as Europe prepares for Cancun we believe the time is right for the European Union to declare its support for industries like ours, to welcome and encourage business investment and to hold a firm line in retaining Europe's ability to compete on the global stage. For now 20%. For tomorrow more, provided all nations and regions of the world share the responsibility.

Yours sincerely,

**Reinhard Reibsch**  
General Secretary EMCEF

**Simon Marsh**  
Chairman ECEG