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EIN POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

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Conclusions

+Energy supply and the change of climate bring interconnected challenges to the whole planet. Even if European Union energy demand is increasing slowly, it is not the case for the emergent countries. 2 billions people still do not have access to any power at all, and in the future we will be 9 billion instead of 6. It explains the present and future growth.

It will bring more competition for the access to resources which are by definition limited. Without any change, as the use of coal, the first emitter of greenhouse gases, is in fact increasing more rapidly than the ones of oil and gas, the objective of limiting greenhouse gases is even more challenging.

Europe is a leader in the field of energy and climate change technologies. It has century old corporations in the field as well of brand new ventures. Europe masters all the technologies and has research and development team both in the private and public sector which can compete at the worldwide level. Europe, on the other side, is more limited on natural resources than other geographical zone. Our dependency has already reached 52% of our total consumption. It may reach 70% if nothing changes. We import 33% of what we consume from Russia and we are importing a lot of oil and gas from either undemocratic potentially unstable countries or other which are strong consumers.

The panel has identified technology as a main component to be placed at the heart of any strategy. It goes from the acceleration of Research and Development, do their usage and deployment.

The panel find that businesses will be key to tackle those issues. At the world level, in the next 25 year, we will have to invest 20 000 billion dollars (800 billion/year) on the energy sector. Business will then be on the front line.

Therefore the panel proposes to focus on building the relevant framework so as to have businesses interested in investing in internal low emission technologies.

The relevant policy has to address in an integrated way, Climate change and sustainability, Energy Security and Competitiveness.

At the European level, we have to push low emitting technologies such as Nuclear energy, Renewable and Carbon Capture and Sequestration. We must accelerate investment and cost efficiency. We must produce more energy on our soil. At this stage, we feel that we are following behind concerning nuclear power. We must also improve energy and fuel efficiency, notably through improve competitiveness of the internal energy market. The housing and transport sector are two top sectorial priorities for energy efficiency improvement. The questions of environment, soil and water use do not have to be forgotten along the way.

Such objectives create many opportunities for businesses. All the parties must therefore make CleanTechs a new frontier as Information Technology was in the 90's.

In term of policy, we have to improve the coordination of our national energy policies. We need more coherence. We still have to focus on building a more efficient framework so as to have businesses interested in investing in internal low emission technologies. Economic instruments such as tax credit and market mechanism have to be preferred.

On the external side, both a multilateral and bilateral approaches may be relevant. For the largest pictures, low emitting technology, climate change mitigation and event non nuclear proliferation, Europe, Asia & America should build a partnership on clean technologies. To reach this goal European Union should join the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6). With the zone from which we import our energy we have to build strengthened relations as much as possible based on reciprocity.

Technology has always driven humanity toward a land of opportunity and growth. Regarding Energy and Climate Change, it will be exactly the same case.

The energy and environmental group has decided to have a permanent process of work so as to reinforce its recommendations. You are kindly invited to join it.