industriAll
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION

Press Release

5 December 2013

IndustriAll sets priorities for implementation of Steel Action Plan for Europe

Taking part yesterday in the first meeting of the High-Level Group on the Future of the Steel Industry* since adoption of the Steel Action Plan for Europe in June 2013, industriAll Europe set out its priorities with regard to implementation of the Plan and support for the industry. It also welcomed Vice-President Tajani's proposal to convene the High-Level Group on a regular basis to monitor implementation of the Plan.

The priority for IndustriAll Europe is to maintain existing production capacities in Europe. The EU is not confronted with excess capacities and the steel sector has already massively adjusted to the drop in demand by cutting production and shedding jobs since the crisis began. The immediate priority is therefore to promote temporary measures and ensure effective use of regional, national and European funds in order to preserve production and employment in the long term.

The European steel industry will not be sustainable and competitive in the future without further efforts in innovation. RID are essential to develop innovative steel products addressing the needs of specific applications. Process innovation, promoting energy- and resource-efficient and emission reduction technologies, is also crucial to ensure the long-term sustainable competitiveness of the steel industry whilst meeting social and societal needs. The introduction and deployment of breakthrough technologies must continue to be promoted as well as efforts to upgrade existing installations with the best and most efficient technologies available. The possibility of earmarking revenues from the sales of ETS allowances to finance RID in low-carbon technologies, as well as their deployment, is of paramount importance in this respect.

Europe's energy-intensive industries are currently faced with high energy prices compared to most of their international competitors. This is a matter of concern for industriAll Europe, which supports the measures proposed by the Action Plan in this respect. Special consideration should be given to raw materials, which represent a highly significant part of the cost of steel products, through proactive foreign policy and/or the promotion of a recyclability policy. More weight should be given to recyclability of products which would permit recovery and recycling of steel and other basic metals - one of the very few raw materials of which Europe can expect continued availability in the future.

*The High-Level Group on the future of the steel industry meets under the auspices of Commission Vice-President Tajani and is made up of representatives of industriAll European Trade Union, the major steel-producing companies and Member States.

_____

Press 13/2013

For further information please contact:

Senior Policy Adviser: Isabelle Barthès isabelle.barthes@industriall-europe.eu – Tel.: 0032 (0)2 226 00862

Press Officer: Linda Rackham linda.rackham@industriall-europe.eu - Tél.: 0032 (0)2 226 0068