

Ms. da Graça Carvalho
Member of Cabinet
Commissioner Carlos Moedas - Research, Science and Innovation

01 October 2015

Ms. da Graça Carvalho,

This year, the World Coal Association is holding its annual conference in Brussels on the 17th of November alongside its annual Board Meeting. Given the significant global focus on global greenhouse gas emission reduction and of course the upcoming COP21 climate conference in Paris in December, this year's theme will be on policy and technology pathways for cleaner coal, including a focus on carbon capture and storage.

The event will bring together the chief executives of WCA Member Companies, climate and energy specialists, as well as representatives of EU institutions and governments with the aim of discussing the policy, technological, and financial requirements for the deployment of high-efficiency low-emissions coal combustion technologies and carbon capture and storage. Further background on the event is appended in the annex to this letter.

We would be honoured if you could participate in a panel discussion on the 17th of November to provide comments on the role that improving thermal power plant efficiencies, in particular coal plant efficiencies globally along with CCS can play.

I have asked [REDACTED] from Hume Brophy who is assisting us in the organisation of the event, to contact your office next week to follow up on this letter directly. I would also be more than happy to provide you directly with a briefing on the event and on WCA's current programme to promote high efficiency low emission coal plant technologies globally. A copy of the concept – PACE – is attached to this e-mail.

Kind regards

Benjamin Sporton
Chief Executive World Coal Association

CHAIRMAN
Mick Buffier

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Benjamin Sporton

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Annex

Conference Background

In its 2012 Energy Technology Perspectives report, the IEA highlighted the significant potential to reduce CO₂ emissions through the deployment of more efficient coal-fired power generation.

In November 2013 recognising this, alongside the UNFCCC COP19 negotiations, the WCA and the Government of Poland launched the Warsaw Communiqué. The statement emphasised the critical role coal plays in addressing global energy poverty, while also acknowledging the need to address international concerns about CO₂ emissions. The Warsaw Communiqué called for increased international action on the deployment of HELE coal-fired power generation.

This sentiment has since been echoed in several high-profile publications and fora, including the International Energy Agency's (IEA) ministerial meeting. In January 2015, to support further deployment of HELE technology the WCA released a concept paper on establishing a Platform for Coal Efficiency (PACE).

The PACE concept is built on analysis of several trends:

- In the lead-up to COP21 in Paris there is no evidence to suggest that mitigation action arising from any climate treaty will come close to achieving emissions reductions necessary to limit atmospheric concentration of CO₂ to 450ppm.
- Over the coming decades, urbanisation and industrialisation will continue to drive demand for affordable, reliable and secure forms of energy in order to combat energy poverty and ensure competitive economies.
- Accordingly, coal will continue to supply a strategic share of the global energy mix. In Southeast Asia alone demand is expected to grow by 4.8% a year through to 2035 as the region turns to coal to fuel its growing energy needs.

Deploying more advanced off the-shelf technology to improve the efficiency rate of coal-fired power plants from 33% to 40% could cut 2 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions now, while allowing affordable energy for economic development and poverty reduction.

Moreover, deploying HELE coal-fired power plants is a key first step along a pathway to near-zero emissions from coal with carbon capture, use and storage (CCUS).

In order to meet growing global energy demand and reduce CO₂ emissions, increased and immediate investment in cleaner coal technologies is required.

Conference Goals

The aim of this one-day conference and technical workshop is to consider the policy, technological, and financial requirements for the deployment of high-efficiency low-emission (HELE) coal combustion and carbon capture and storage technologies.

Building on contributions from expert speakers, through plenary sessions and working group discussions, the conference objectives are:

- *To demonstrate that coal plays a significant role in the global energy mix, rising demand, especially in the developing world, means this will not change over the coming decades,*
- *To demonstrate that stakeholders in the coal industry and extended energy sector are working to develop strong pathways that promotes the adoption of cleaner coal technologies, especially carbon capture and storage,*
- *To examine the technological, policy, infrastructure and financial barriers that exist and identify how these barriers may be overcome, especially for carbon capture and storage.*