Report of the meeting between E. Bienkowska and 7 CEOs and 4 Associations representing Energy Intensive Industries (EII)

Participants:

EII: Axel Eggert, Director General EUROFER, Dr Hans Fischer, CEO and CTO Tata Steel Europe Ltd, John Cooper, Director General, Fuels Europe, Giuseppe Ricci, Chief Refining & Marketing Officer, Eni S.p.A., Phillipe Ducom, President, ExxonMobil Europe, Markus Steilemann, CEO of Covestro and Chair of Cefic Innovation Programme, Marco Mensink, CEFIC Director General, Saori Dubourg, Member of the 2030 Group, Member of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF, Koen Coppenholle, Chief Executive, CEMBUREAU, Marcel Cobuz, Member of the Group Executive Committee, Region Head Europe LafargeHolcim, Jaime Elizondo, President Europe and Member of the Managing Board, CEMEX

Commission: E. Bienkowska, G. Cozigou

Discussion:

Commissioner welcomed the participants and mentioned that the Commission will come forward this autumn with the proposal for a "Long-term EU strategy for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions". She thanked EII for the work done that will feed into the preparation of the strategy and asked EII to summarise main findings.

John Cooper thanked on behalf of EII for this meeting and noted that final report will be prepared by the 7th of September. He went through the presentation (attached) summarising preliminary results of the work of EII as an input to the EU long term climate strategy, he stressed the importance of further efforts in the area of R&D and a predictability of a regulatory framework and proposed as solutions the need for a specific mission on transition to carbon neutral industry within Horizon Europe and a need for a staff working document on transition of industry to carbon neutrality taking findings of the EII work further.

CEOs intervened providing examples of their projects and stressing the need right framework conditions and stability/predictability of rules and policies in order to attract multi-billion investments at company level. CEOs mentioned a number of important factors from their perspective for the success of the transition, including the right energy prices and availability of energy, removal of discrepancies among EU MS in implementation of the Single Market rules, coherence of policy initiatives at the EU MS level, attention to the global competitiveness of the EU, faster depreciation of assets for new investments linked to transformation to carbon neutral industry, the need for measuring of environmental and social impacts of products produced in order to counter the current focus on profit, initiatives at G20 level and if not successful through bilateral agreements as only initial stage can be done by the EU without global industry
following. CEOs thanked Commissioner for leadership shown and insisted that that for transition to succeed we can not afford to wait for the next Commission and actions are needed now including a mission on R&D and a staff working document on transition of industry to carbon neutrality.

Commissioner thanked EII's and CEOs for their work and summarised key takeaways and the need for further work/efforts:

- New technologies are needed;
- Efforts at national EU MS level;
- Efforts at Global level;
- Coherence of environmental and economic goals;
- Focus on public opinion in order to support some key technologies as CCS;
- Better implementation of Single Market legislation

- IPCEI

- Bilateral approach/agreements in case efforts at G20 level are not possible