



### **European Commission presents work programme for 2015**

On 16 December 2014 European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker presented the Commission's 2015 work programme. Among the ten policy priorities, the most relevant ones are new boost for jobs, growth and investment; a resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy; a deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base; and a reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States.

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Better regulation is one of the key principles of the new Commission. The work programme announced a cumulative cost assessment for the glass and ceramics industry for 2015. The objective of this assessment is to analyse the impact of certain EU legislation on profit margins and international competitiveness in these industries. Additionally, a fitness check of EU legislation impacting the construction sector in the areas of internal market and energy efficiency will be conducted.

The European Energy Union is high on the Commission's agenda. The Commission will present a strate-

gic framework to address energy supply security, integration of national energy markets, reduction of European energy demand, decarbonising the energy mix and promoting research and innovation. Further plans in the area of climate and energy include a revision of the EU ETS Directive to define the post-2020 regime (including rules on carbon leakage).

Implementing the EU investment package is another important part of the work programme. The package is supposed to create about €300 bn of investment.

The creation of the work programme also included decisions on which legislative proposals would be withdrawn or altered. While previous Commissions used to remove only a few points from the agenda, President Juncker's cabinet identified 80 proposals which will be amended or halted.

This long list includes legislation on the reduction of atmospheric pollutants, which will be reviewed as part of the framework of the 2030 climate and energy package. A proposal for changes to waste legislation was completely withdrawn and will be replaced by a more ambitious proposal. The proposal to review the energy taxation directive was also fully withdrawn. (mz)

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### **COP20: UN Climate Conference in Lima issued draft agreement**

From 1 to 14 December 2014 the UNFCCC gathered in Lima for the United Nations Climate Conference (COP20). The objective of the conference was to **draft an agreement** in view of the next summit scheduled for December 2015 in Paris.

A main point of discussion was how the responsibilities in the fight against climate change should be shared between different States. A number of industrialised countries argued that some States, such as China, South Korea, Mexico, India and Brazil, should carry out more actions than before because their economic performance has improved in the last years and they can no longer be classified as developing countries. The draft agreement now states that countries should take actions depending on their "responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances". As this compromise leaves much room for discussion, the topic may be revisited at the next conference. (continued on next page)

(cont'd) The legal form of the final agreement was another point for debate. While a non-binding agreement could lack the desired positive effect on the planet's climate, a binding treaty seems unlikely because it would have to be ratified by the national governments of all signatory States. The latter may prove close to impossible for some signatories, including China and the USA. The draft agreement reached in Lima is less binding than the previously suggested text, as it reads that States "may" – replacing "shall" – include quantifiable information on their emission targets and how they intend to reach them. The press and other stakeholders criticised the lack of consensus on the legal form of the agreement and the level of commitment.

The third important point of discussion was the UN's Green Climate Fund.



The fund had been created to support poorer countries in their efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. Although the UNFCCC's objective for 2014 to collect USD 10 bn was successfully reached, some industrialised countries called for more contributions and a final agreement on the operating mechanisms of the fund. At present almost 50% of the fund's capital is provided by EU member states. Within the EU the main contributors are the UK, France and Germany. COP21 will be held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015. (mz)

## Meetings and events

16-18 March, *Brussels*

**CU March meetings**

8-10 September, *Höhr-Grenzhausen*

**PRE/ECREF European Seminar on Refractories**

15-18 September, *Vienna*  
**UNITECR 2015**

20-23 October, *Munich*  
**CERAMITEC 2015 Fair**

## Short news and publications

- ⇒ **CU Communications survey ongoing:** Cerame-Unie welcomes your input on its communications activities, including the PRE newsletter, ahead of the creation of a new Cerame-Unie website and a future members' area (extranet). The **survey** is open until the end of February.
- ⇒ **EPCF report published:** The report of the European Parliament Ceramics Forum of 3 December 2014 is now available **online**. The report covers the contributions made by high-level speakers on topics relevant to the ceramic industry.
- ⇒ **March meetings:** Registration for the CU March meetings is open! Chemical Agents, Environment, Climate & Energy and Directors meetings will take place in Brussels on 16-18 March. To register please complete the following **form** before 2 March or contact Ani Deal at [events@cerameunie.eu](mailto:events@cerameunie.eu) for more information.
- ⇒ **PRE Congress:** The hotel registration deadline has been extended to 2 March: kindly book your hotel room and complete the PRE registration form by that date. The PRE Congress will take place in Istanbul from Wednesday 27 May to Friday 29 May 2015 at the Point Hotel Barbaros, hosted by SEREF, the Turkish Ceramic and Refractories Manufacturers Association. For further information please contact Ani Deal at [events@cerameunie.eu](mailto:events@cerameunie.eu).



European Refractories Producers Federation - PRE

Member of Cerame-Unie

Rue de la Montagne 17, B-1000 Brussels

32 2 808 38 80 | [www.pre.eu](http://www.pre.eu)

Editor: Astrid Volckaert, Ani Deal | [volckaert@cerameunie.eu](mailto:volckaert@cerameunie.eu)