



Position Statement

Aiming for Zero: Long-term Certainty for Economic Prosperity

The Paris Agreement is a historic landmark for both international diplomacy and action on climate change. The Agreement sets out an ambition, and a framework, to limit climate change and global temperature rise to *well below* 2°C, with efforts to limit this to 1.5 °C. To be Paris compliant, and to have any hope of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 °C, it is clear from the latest science that global emissions must now fall to net-zero as early as possible in the second half of this century. For developed economies such as the EU's, whose leadership is essential in this, the achievement of net zero emissions must therefore be by 2050 *at the latest*.

We, as a cross sectoral group of European business leaders working together to accelerate progress towards a sustainable economy, are aware that the transition to a climate-safe world with net zero emissions is inevitable and has already begun. Examining our operations, supply chains and business models highlights the opportunities for innovation and efficiency that can make our business more resilient for the 21st century. Reinventing our businesses to be fit for the future can position us as leaders for the markets of tomorrow, and can help keep our businesses competitive, relevant and profitable.

However, not all businesses have yet taken on this challenge. A key reason for this is that there is still a lack of clear, long-term signals and supporting policies from Governments that can drive the transition to a zero emissions economy at pace and scale.

Ambitious long-term strategies can play a key role in informing policy and business decisions, encouraging the investment and creativity that would help build a zero emissions and climate-resilient future, and avoiding stranded assets and mis-investments. Recognising this, we call on Governments to develop strong, credible and appropriate 2050 strategies that:

1. Are consistent with the Paris Agreement's goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals and aim for net-zero emissions as early as possible in the second half of this century. Advanced economies should aim to achieve this by 2050 at the latest.
2. Maximise certainty for business, investors and society as a whole, through taking a comprehensive and credible approach, which covers the whole of the economy and society.
3. Are developed and implemented in an open and transparent way, with government working in partnership with all stakeholders including businesses, civil society, employers, investors, trade unions, sub-national, regional and local authorities.
4. Will be regularly reviewed, in line with the Paris Agreement cycle, to ensure they are kept up to date, reflect the latest economic, scientific and technological developments, and are on track to achieve the agreed goals.

As a group of business leaders who have placed climate action and sustainable business models at the heart of what we do, we understand that bold actions shape our future. We believe that climate risk can be successfully managed, and that the transition to a net-zero emission economy will create new opportunities. To harness these opportunities, governments and businesses must work together to ensure that good quality plans with adequate ambition are implemented and that the goals of the Paris Agreement are achieved.

CLG Members

