The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group:

2005-2015

Key Milestones

The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group has its origins in a 2004 speech by Tony Blair, calling for a stronger leadership voice from business on climate change.[1] Convened by the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership on behalf of the Prince of Wales, its members are leaders from sectors that cut across all economic activity, including infrastructure, manufacturing, consumer goods and services, finance, and energy production. Its achievements have included:

2005: An open letter sent to the Prime Minister calling for the UK government to sign up to ambitious greenhouse gas targets at the European level and to deliver strong climate policies in the UK. The letter demonstrated changing business attitudes to climate change in the UK.

2006/7: The CLG was one of the first and loudest supporters of the UK's Climate Change Act, providing support to the cross-party consensus as the bill passed through parliament.

2007: The CLG published a communiqué to governments gathering at the UN climate change conference in Bali.[2] Signed by 148 companies, this was the first time a group of major businesses had publicly called for a strong outcome from the international climate negotiations.

2007: Members of the CLG gave a strong message to the US congressional committee on global warming, calling for long-term legal frameworks to tackle climate change. Leading US politicians later noted that this was an impactful and important step.[3]

2008-9: The CLG championed the EU's 2020 Climate & Energy Package - working closely with the Commission, Parliament and Council to ensure a strong result.

2009: The Copenhagen Communiqué, which calls for a robust, effective and equitable climate change deal, was published. Signed by over 900 businesses, it demonstrated a remarkable consensus amongst the world's most senior corporate leaders.[4]

2010: The international Corporate Leaders Network is established, linking the CLG to sister groups around the world.

2012: The Carbon Price Communiqué makes the case for putting a price on carbon emissions.[5] The World Bank used the CLG's statement as a model in launching its own statement on Carbon Pricing - which is now supported by over 1,000 businesses round the world.

2013: The CLG created the Green Growth Platform, which it continues to provide a strategic lead to today. The platform allows businesses and investors to engage with thirteen of the most progressive EU member state governments in order to explore and promote an ambitious EU decarbonisation and growth agenda.[6]

2013: The CLG established the Polish Business & Science Climate Platform

2013-14: The CLG was one of the first business groups to call on the European Commission to adopt the 'backloading' proposal and introduce a stability reserve to strengthen the EU Emissions Trading System.

2014: The CLG led work with a broad range of companies, including the newly founded We Mean Business Coalition to create enough clear political support for European leaders to agree to a 2030 target of at least a 40% emissions cut.

2014: The Trillion Tonne Communiqué demonstrates widespread business backing for a long term goal of net zero carbon emissions.[7] A reference to this goal was included in the Lima Call for Climate Action, released by the international community in December 2014.[8]

'05 '06 '07 '08 '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15