

## PRESS RELEASE

Commissioner Oettinger is keen to ensure the competitiveness of the EU refining industry and called for a second Roundtable in November.

**Brussels, 15 May 2012: EUROPIA welcomes the strong support expressed by Member States and Members of the European Parliament to DG Energy's proposed way forward to address the competitiveness challenges of the refining industry**

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At the request of Members of the European Parliament representing constituencies affected by the Petroplus bankruptcy, Commissioner Oettinger held a Roundtable on EU Refining. Member States, Members of the European Parliament, EUROPIA, representing the refining industry, and ETUC, representing the European Trade Unions, widely supported the Commissioner's initiative to assess the need for coordinated action at EU level to deal with the sector's challenges.

Director General, Philip Lowe presented a comprehensive summary of the challenges that the refining industry is facing in Europe. Isabelle Muller, EUROPIA's Secretary General, and European refiners echoed the concerns and underlined the substantial challenges on both demand and supply side the EU refining industry is currently facing. She particularly highlighted that "*existing EU legislation such as ETS, IED, REACH has a cumulative impact which substantially increases the operating costs and capital costs of refining in Europe*" and that "*...many non EU refiners do not have the burden of legislative costs...*", and concluded that "*...we, [EUROPIA], propose that today's Roundtable is followed by the creation of a specific forum of Member States, Commission and industry to address in a continued manner the situation of the refining industry...*".

The Member States widely acknowledged the difficult situation of EU refining as described by DG Energy and many participants emphasized the need to thoroughly assess the impact of both current and future legislation on the competitiveness of the EU refining sector.

Commissioner Oettinger expressed the fact that EU refineries are an essential part of the EU industrial fabric and a key element of the EU industrial value chain. He stressed that he is keen to ensure the competitiveness of the EU refining industry and announced that a second Roundtable will be scheduled in November 2012.

Isabelle Muller concluded that EUROPIA welcomes Commissioner Oettinger's decision to continue addressing with EU institutions, Member States and industry the viability and competitiveness of the EU refining sector, and committed EUROPIA to support this process.

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EUROPIA, the European Petroleum Industry Association, is the single voice the European Refining & Marketing Industry, the downstream sector of Europe's oil industry.

EUROPIA is a non-profit organisation and whose 18 members account for more than 80% of EU petroleum refining capacity and some 75% of EU motor fuel retail sales.

EUROPIA as a leading Industry Association aims at contributing pro-actively and constructively to the development of policies to safeguard the secure and sustainable manufacturing, supply and use of petroleum products by providing competent and expert advice to the EU Institutions, Member State Governments and the wider community.

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