

The European refining industry calls for regulatory predictability and certainty to create a favourable investment framework

Brussels, 17 December 2014: The 4th meeting of the Refining Forum under the lead of DG Energy took place in Brussels on 11th December, with participation of Member States, Commission, European Parliament, Industry, experts and other stakeholders.

In his introductory comments, Chris Beddoes, Director General FuelsEurope, underlined that *“the pressure is still very strong on EU refining with more closures in 2014 and refineries under threat in several Countries”*.

The Commission announced that the Fitness Check is expected during the 1st Half of 2015. Member States, including the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland, Italy and Ireland called for a robust fitness check that would serve as a reference for forthcoming legislation. They requested to be closely involved in analysing the findings of the Fitness Check, and ensuring alignment with their own national studies. Chris Beddoes commented *“I believe it is important to do a thorough and objective assessment, one that looks carefully at how legislation affects our costs and competitiveness, allows time for comment from stakeholders and most notable those directly concerned - the Member States and industry”*.

Chris Beddoes also called for a predictable and competitive legislative framework to encourage investments, he stated that *“Companies are used to manage business uncertainty, assess the market and competition, and take views on the evolution of technology. But if the legislative framework is uncertain - or is certain, but structurally puts EU at a disadvantage - it frightens investment decision makers”*.

Speaking on behalf of the refining industry, Mr. Ilkka Räsänen, Public Affairs Director at Neste Oil, also emphasized the need for predictability and certainty and underlined the need to avoid duplication of legislation referring as an example to the Medium Combustion Plant Directive which he emphasised should not now overlap with the only just agreed Industrial Emissions Directive BREF.

Mr. Bela Kelemen, Refining Vice President at MOL Group, expressed the ambition of EU refiners to continue investing in Europe and emphasized the conditions required for these investments: *“We want to move ahead but we need predictable regulation, no discriminatory regulation in the EU to ensure a level playing field globally and the freedom to operate under market forces”*.

FuelsEurope welcomes the continued support of the Commission and Member States for the Forum, the next meeting of which was announced as Spring 2015 *“The Refining Forum is very helpful to hear all views on EU Refining Competitiveness and in particular review the Fitness Check and its policy implications”*.

- ENDS-

FuelsEurope, the voice of the European petroleum refining industry

FuelsEurope represents with the EU institutions the interest of 43 companies operating refineries in the EU. Members account for almost 100% of EU petroleum refining capacity and more than 75% of EU motor fuel retail sales.

FuelsEurope aims to promote economically and environmentally sustainable refining, supply and use of petroleum products in the EU, by providing input and expert advice to the EU institutions, Member State Governments and the wider community and thus contributing in a constructive and pro-active way to the development and implementation of EU policies and regulations.

Contact : Alain Mathuren

T +32 2 566 91 19

F +32 2 566 91 11

alain.mathuren@fuelseurope.eu

www.fuelseurope.eu