

Turning challenges into opportunities – review of the Strategy for long-term EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reductions

VDMA supports the **review of the Strategy for long-term EU Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) Reductions** as there have been major developments since the establishment of the current strategy: the international commitment to climate change mitigation by the Paris Agreement and developments of technological potentials and costs that can help creating a modern, competitive and sustainable economy.

The mechanical engineering association believes that the transition into a low carbon economy can be a **chance for a comprehensive modernization of all parts of the economy** and that **Europe can become world leader for low carbon technologies**, which can also **contribute to make a change outside the EU on a global basis**.

In conjunction with the Paris Agreement the **EU should indicate different scenarios and climate pathways** in its EU long-term strategy on GHG emissions, which outline appropriate and cost-efficient implementation measures in order to reach the climate targets.

Climate protection and economic success can go hand in hand, if barriers to the deployment and investments into low carbon technologies are removed. It is only through a **clear and reliable framework** that industries will make the needed long term investments for the transition.

In addition, the VDMA raises the following key points to be included into the reviewed EU long-term strategy on GHG emissions:

- Achieving the Paris climate targets require a **horizontal approach to tackle GHG emissions from all sectors of the economy**, including buildings, transport, waste, energy, land use / agriculture and industry
- It is only through a far-reaching mix of technologies that climate targets can be fulfilled. The strategy should therefore build upon a **technology neutral approach** which enables machine manufacturers to continue to focus on the essential: to remain innovative and competitive.
- **Linking the EU roadmap with global climate efforts** - Climate change is a global issue and requires global solutions. A stable, rule based global approach is the key to climate change mitigation. National unilateralism is neither efficient nor effective.

- **Concrete measures and instruments** are needed to strengthen cross sectorial approaches (sector coupling), digital networking and the resource and energy efficient use of low carbon technologies. However, fighting climate change is not just about reducing GHG emissions. The **Adaptation to climate change, climate education, societal awareness and protection of ecological systems** are just a few points which need to be included into the reviewed strategy.
- **Businesses should continue to play an important role in the political iterative climate change mitigation process**, as their expertise is needed to define and build a reliable framework for EU industries.

The German Mechanical Engineering Association (VDMA) represents more than 3,200 member companies in the SME-dominated mechanical and systems engineering industry in Germany and Europe. With around 1,35 million employees in Germany and a turnover of € 219 billion (2016), the sector is the largest industrial employer and one of Germany's leading sectors of industry overall.

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