

Our position on the new EU-ETS directive, voted in December 2008

We have always supported the efforts of the European Commission to reduce CO₂ emissions. We took a pioneering commitment back in 2001 to reduce our CO₂ emissions and we have already reduced our absolute emissions in industrialized countries by 12.5% between 1990 and 2008.

We are pleased with the outcome of the renewed EU-ETS directive.

- It is clearly a step in the right direction, although it is only the first of many steps towards a comprehensive global agreement on climate change.
 - It recognizes that our sector is at risk of “carbon leakage” as long as no worldwide agreement is in place.
 - It provides us with the visibility we were asking for, regarding the regulatory framework post-2012.
 - A number of details regarding the precise working of the new directive still need to be worked out and we will continue to contribute to this work; in particular, we do support strongly, together with a large majority of European cement manufacturers in Cembureau, the use of clinker as the benchmark baseline to be used in the calculation of free allocations.
 - Complying with the new directive will nonetheless require considerable efforts: our allocations will decrease each year between 2013 and 2020 to achieve the objective of minus 21% between 2005 and 2020. We will do so by continuing to use the main levers with which we have reduced our emissions so far and by accelerating our efforts in R&D.
- Our position on a global climate change agreement:
- We are campaigning for a global agreement between governments aiming at ambitious CO₂ emission reductions while preserving competitiveness. This is the output we are expecting from the Copenhagen conference in December 2009.
 - Lafarge and the CSI believe that a sectoral approach can be a useful tool to improve the speed and effectiveness of industry’s greenhouse gas mitigation efforts. If properly designed, it could offer strong participation incentives to developing economies, businesses and governments.
Lafarge and the CSI would like to see the sectoral approach incorporated into international climate change negotiation as a policy option, with explicit details to be further defined after the Copenhagen COP meeting in December 2009. If the sectoral approach is retained at Copenhagen, further work by the CSI in consultation with governments will be needed to put this approach into effect.
Lafarge and the CSI are ready, willing and able to work with governments potentially involved in a sectoral approach to elaborate the details of a suitable sector participation scheme and nationally appropriate carbon commitments.