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BUSINESSEUROPE News Release

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For immediate release

- **BUSINESSEUROPE calls for revised EU energy and climate policy that supports competitiveness and growth**
- **Argues that drop in industry share of GDP is directly related to imbalanced energy policy**

Today Markus J. Beyrer, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE, addressed the EU Competitiveness Council and called for a revised approach to energy and climate change policy. This is urgently required and critical to ensure competitiveness and growth.

BUSINESSEUROPE has long argued that climate targets must be balanced with cost concerns and security of supply to facilitate an increase in industrial output. To compete internationally, European industry must have a level playing field and a unilateral European approach to climate change runs contradictory to the need for global action.

Commenting on this week's EU Commission competitiveness report, Mr Beyrer said: "*The Commission's data shows a drop in industry's share of GDP from 15.5% to 15.1% in the past year. This trend must be rapidly reversed if the joint ambition of business and the Commission to see industry reach 20% of GDP is to be achieved. Imbalanced EU energy policies are directly contributing to the erosion of our industrial base and allowing other industrial economies, like the United States, to reap the benefits.*"

Beyrer underlined the fact that industry strongly supports global efforts to reduce emissions and that the EU should set a binding 2030 target. However, the target should be aligned with the competitive needs of industry and the approaches taken in other jurisdictions worldwide. Further unilateral action will compound our competitiveness problems and will not win the support of business or produce the desired results.

Finally he emphasised that industry is committed to make the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) the primary tool for reducing CO2 emissions in the 2020-2030 period. Heavy support for market deployment (feed-in tariffs) for renewables should be progressively phased out to stop the trend of higher EU energy prices.

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***BUSINESSEUROPE** is the leading advocate for growth and competitiveness at European level, standing up for companies across the continent and actively campaigning on the policy issues that most influence their potential. We speak for all-sized enterprises in 35 European countries whose national federations are our direct members.*