

17th December 2008

EU ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE PACKAGE

The British Cement Association (BCA) today welcomed the agreement reached between the European Council of Ministers, the European Parliament, and the European Commission on the Energy and Climate Change package.

Following today's positive vote in the European Parliament, Dr Pal Chana, BCA Chief Executive, said "our biggest fear was that in the rush to get a deal under the French Presidency, industry would be left behind and critical sectors such as cement would be exposed to unfair international competition that simply moved manufacturing to non-carbon constrained countries – so called carbon leakage.

The Agreement reached maintains the environmental integrity of the climate change objectives whilst moving to a level playing-field for energy intensive industries that are open to international competition and thus exposed to carbon leakage. From 2013 Europe will have to operate within a new, much reduced, carbon cap regardless of whether carbon allowances are sold at auction or granted free of charge. This can only be good for the fight against climate change and encouraging for industry which has been given some degree of certainty that they have been seeking."

Cement is essential to economic and social development and the most sustainable way to supply it is through a healthy, domestic, industry. Subject to a number of details that need to be finalized between now and 2013, the BCA is delighted that the Energy and Climate Change package recognizes this.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The British Cement Association (BCA) is the trade and research organization that represents the interests of the UK's cement industry in its relations with Her Majesty's Government, the European Union and relevant organizations in the UK. Members of the BCA are Castle Cement (Hanson), CEMEX UK, Lafarge Cement UK and Tarmac Buxton Lime and Cement. They are the major domestic manufacturers and produce over 90% of the cement sold in the UK.

Further information on BCA activities can be downloaded from www.cementindustry.co.uk