

Our messages in view of an agreement on climate change at Paris COP21

Lafarge supports the adoption of an ambitious agreement at the Conference on Climate Change in Paris in 2015, reflecting the long-term goal to limit global warming to below 2° C.

We believe that such an agreement would allow companies to carry on implementing, cost-effective CO2 emissions reduction initiatives, and support their investments in energy efficiency and innovation towards low carbon solutions, all in a fairer competitive environment.

Our position is that, for such an agreement to be successful, four conditions apply:

- We need long term, stable and predictable climate and energy public policies. They should encourage investments and support plans to reduce CO2 emissions further and to adapt to climate change, while being profitable.

Every climate change policy, whether at regional, national or international level, must define a path and not deviate from it. Stable regulatory frameworks are essential in building trust, which is a prerequisite for any investment decision.

Furthermore, an international agreement on climate should not focus only on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. It should facilitate the transition towards a low carbon economy where economic players will be able to invest and spread their innovative solutions.

To this end States must implement public policies aimed at accelerating the adaptation to climate change through low-carbon solutions (energy efficiency, innovative products and services). Municipalities will play a major role.

To accelerate this transition, public, private or mixed funding schemes should be created and implemented.

- Contributions from States should be comparable and coordinated in order to create a level playing field.

Faced with the challenges of climatic changes, commitments from all States, particularly major emitters, are desperately needed.

Additionally, cooperation between States and companies is the only way to find technological solutions able to cope with such broad challenges. Whether individually or by industry, many companies have already made commitments against climate change or prepared roadmaps for their industry.

- The need for carbon pricing.

We believe that putting one or several prices on carbon is an effective way to coordinate various climate policies on an international scale.. The outline of such an international carbon market could be drawn in the climate agreement expected in Paris.

We recognize however that a carbon market is only a means to an end and must be supported by transition policies.

To be effective, a carbon market should be implemented gradually and meet certain conditions of equity and good governance. Above all, it is an essential piece in remain at regional or national climate and energy policy that takes into account competitiveness issues.

- A reliable monitoring, reporting and verification system to follow-up on the States' contributions.

To make the whole system transparent and credible, all States must commit to monitor, report on and have their greenhouse gas emissions checked.

Globally each sector should create a database where accurate and verified information on greenhouse gas emissions and energy performance of industrial installations would be collected.

Accounting for carbon emissions must be as obvious and widespread as financial accounting. It includes measuring footprint of end products throughout their lifecycle (eg life cycle analysis of buildings instead of intermediate products) in order to measure the relevance of innovations.

A world leader in building materials, Lafarge employs 63 000 in 61 countries and posted sales of 12,8 billion euros in 2014.

We have been contributing to the fight against climate change since for many years ; one of our major ambitions 2020 is to achieve a 33% reduction in our CO2 emissions per ton of cement. By the end of 2014 we reached a 26,4% reduction.

More information is available on our website : www.lafarge.com