

## STATEMENT

For immediate release

### **The European Commission's "Roadmap to a competitive low-carbon economy in 2050" sets Europe on a path to sustainable prosperity**

***The European Climate Foundation welcomes the sound economic analysis presented by the Commission in supporting low-carbon growth, and calls for words to be turned into action***

**Brussels, March 8, 2011** – The European Commission will today adopt its *Roadmap to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050*. The document, underscores the importance and benefits of a drive to a low-carbon European economy. It will set Europe on a path to sustainable prosperity with key commitments including the decarbonisation of the European power sector, a strong commitment to energy efficiency and the recalibration of the Emissions Trading System to maintain an effective carbon price.

In its "*Roadmap 2050 – a practical guide to a prosperous low-carbon Europe*" ([www.roadmap2050.eu](http://www.roadmap2050.eu)), released last year, the European Climate Foundation and a range of industry and NGO partners worked together with leading consultants to show that the decarbonisation of the power sector is a pre-requisite for the development of a low-carbon economy.

The ECF's Roadmap 2050 showed there are three key factors in the development of the low-carbon economy in Europe:

- Continent wide electricity grid interconnection;
- A doubling of annual energy efficiency improvement rates; and
- The reform of the European energy market to enable investment in zero-carbon generation infrastructure

While there is undoubted progress in the area of sectoral abatement, the Commission has not taken heed of its own impact assessment and given a clear figure on set-aside credits that would adequately tighten the ETS. Equally there is no mention of the 30% overall emission reductions by 2020 that would stimulate the European economy by giving clarity to business and industry.

The European Commission's work, starting with the communication on Energy Infrastructure Priorities and continuing with its development of both Climate and Energy Roadmaps to 2050, clearly shows the positive economic opportunities offered by decarbonisation. A decarbonised future will create employment, drive innovation, increase Europe's resource efficiency, decrease Europe's dependence on

the import of fossil fuels, and drive down the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are contributing to climate change.

We welcome the leadership the European Commission is demonstrating in presenting both climate and energy roadmaps to 2050, but the EU institutions now have the challenge of following through on these important long-term visions and translating their economic analysis into clear, joined-up policies and adequate targets.

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