EU new industrial policy

The European paper industry supports the European Commission in its efforts to create a better environment for companies to invest and create jobs in Europe

On 5 October 2005, the European Commission presented a new industrial policy to create better framework conditions for manufacturing industries in the coming years: ‘Implementing the Community Lisbon programme: a policy framework to strengthen EU manufacturing – towards a more integrated approach for industrial policy’.

Commission Vice-President Günter Verheugen responsible for enterprise and industry policy rightly said: “Manufacturing has a vital role to play in securing Europe’s future prosperity. There is no way back to the old days of protectionism and subsidies. Politicians don’t create jobs. But we can create the right framework for industry to thrive”.

All EU policies need to contribute to competitiveness and the synergies between these policies and industrial competitiveness must be optimised. Ensuring the consistency of the various policies is a pre-requisite. Better and simplified regulation together with robust impact assessments is important tools to increase competitiveness of European industry.

CEPI fully supports the creation of a High-Level Group to pursue greater integration of EU competitiveness, energy and environment policies and will contribute and play an active role.

However, while providing the best horizontal framework conditions for companies, one has to take into account the specific needs of industrial sectors. As far as the European paper industry is concerned, energy, climate change and the Emissions Trading Scheme, raw materials - wood supply and recovered paper availability - and waste-related issues are top priorities. R&D and innovation as well as market access with free trade and fair competition are also of primary importance.

The involvement of the stakeholders and particularly the manufacturing industry representatives at an early stage in policy making is a must to better address the key challenges faced by the various sectors.

CEPI will contribute to further analysis and proposals for concrete policies and actions.

February 2006
The European pulp and paper industry key figures:

- It is composed of 850 companies and 1,250 mills
- It has a turnover of 75 billion Euro and a value added of 25 billion Euro
- It employs some 275,000 people directly and provides indirect employment to some 1.8 million people
- It produces some 100 million tonnes of paper and 45 million tonnes of pulp
- It represents 29% of the world production
- It exports 15 million tonnes of paper, around 15% of its production
- Some 54% of the paper and board consumed is recycled
- It is part of the Forest-Based Industries, which has a turnover of 375 billion euros, i.e. 6.5% of the European manufacturing industry’s turnover