

The European Green Deal: a new horizon that Europe's flat glass sector looks forward to with enthusiasm and cautious optimism

Brussels, 11 December 2019: Today's publication by the European Commission of the communication on 'The European Green Deal' sets a new horizon that Europe's flat glass sector looks forward to with enthusiasm and cautious optimism.

The European Commission's ambition to actively operationalize a decarbonisation agenda across all relevant policies and to make it an opportunity to expand sustainable economic activity and Europe's leadership in low-carbon technologies, is music to Glass for Europe's ears.

Glass for Europe's Secretary General, Bertrand Cazes declared: *'Europe's flat glass sector is ready to support these new climate and sustainability ambitions with its best-in-class manufacturing installations and its high-performance products, which enable the decarbonisation of buildings and cars and the deployment of solar energy.'*

The flat glass sector feels most particularly encouraged by the European Commission's intention to engage in a **building 'renovation wave'**. The launch a new renovation initiative in 2020 coupled with the rigorous implementation of high energy-performance standards for buildings will be instrumental to ensure that a doubling of building renovation rates delivers the expected energy savings. In the mobility sector, Glass for Europe also welcomes the announcement that CO₂ emission performance standards for vehicles will be revised in 2021. **The flat glass sector has solutions ready to be used for Europe to rapidly cut its CO₂ emissions.**

Other initiatives announced in the European Green Deal, such as that on greater circularity and recycling in the construction sector, sustainable product policy, R&D and industrial policies supportive of decarbonisation of industrial processes, etc., have the potential to support the flat glass sector's efforts to maximize its contributions to the carbon neutral transition.

'The daunting task is now to operationalize the European Green Deal. We must get things right.' concluded Bertrand Cazes.

Glass for Europe will unveil its '2050 vision for the flat glass sector' next month to engage in a dialogue with European authorities on an informed and constructive basis.

Glass for Europe is the trade association for Europe's flat glass sector. Flat glass is the material that goes into a variety of end products, primarily in windows and facades for buildings, windscreens and windows for automotive and transport as well as solar energy equipment, furniture and appliances. Glass for Europe brings together multinational firms and thousands of SMEs across Europe, to represent the entire building glass value-chain.