COP21 · CMP11

PARIS 2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES
- COP 21 STATEMENT -

Brussels, 26 November 2015

All the countries of the world gathering in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015 for the 21st yearly session of the Conference of the Parties to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are expected to reach an agreement to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. DIGITALEUROPE supports the work of the 196 parties to the Convention to reach a legally binding and universal agreement at the end of this 21st session.

Digital technologies, especially ICTs, have revolutionised the way we live and work and contribute to a cleaner, greener planet; sensors and software manage water use and irrigation in real time; Control systems optimise factories' production resources and reduce waste; smart grids allow renewables to be integrated into the energy supply systems and encourage consumers to use energy more efficiently. In these and many other ways digital technologies save natural resources and reduce waste.

DIGITALEUROPE's members contribute to the climate change challenge in two ways. First, they are continually improving the carbon footprint of both their products and operations. Secondly, they deliver the innovations necessary to transition the world to a vibrant, sustainable, low-carbon economy. To maximise the impact of these efforts we need two things to happen; to encourage public and private sector collaboration to continue the sector's reduction of its carbon footprint and digital must be put at the heart of the carbon footprint reduction plans of other sectors of the economy and society.

DIGITALEUROPE strongly supports the ambition of the 196 parties to COP21/CM11 and the European Commission to reach a robust and meaningful agreement to tackle dangerous climate change. Such an agreement is a pre-requisite for a sound and sustainable policy environment and large-scale investment in the innovation and technology that will be a very significant part of any solution.

WHAT HAS THE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY DONE SO FAR?

Members of DIGITALEUROPE have already made strong commitments to improve the carbon footprint of their own technologies and operations as well as delivering the innovations needed to facilitate the energy transition through three categories of engagement.

01 IMPROVING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF TECH SECTOR OPERATIONS

The high-tech sector is actively reducing our Scope 1, 2 and 3 carbon footprint with corporate goals and policies that feature:

- Conserving energy (e.g., *participating in the EU Smart cities initiative and similar programmes*) and improving the efficiency of company logistics;
- Procuring, fostering, and generating renewable energy;
- Supporting the development and implementation of EU Code of Conducts on Data Centres and Broadband;
- Supporting alternate employee commute and travel options, including alternatives to business travel; and,
- Participating in partnerships dedicated to relevant best practices such as **The Green Grid** and the **Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition**.

02 IMPROVING THE CARBON FOOTPRINT OF TECH SECTOR PRODUCTS

Our member companies are actively improving the carbon footprint of our products over their lifecycle with corporate goals and policies that feature:

- Developing energy efficient products *(e.g. set-top boxes & televisions)* and networking systems *(e.g. 4G/LTE or LCD much more energy efficient than previous technology generations)*, and innovating diverse solutions for resource efficient data centers through bodies such as **The Green Grid** or the **EU CoC**. The industry initiative **Green Touch** *(http://www.greentouch.org/)* has facilitated the development of new technologies and network models that will help reduce the ICT environmental impact.
- Reusing and refurbishing used products and their parts to extend their life spans, and recycling obsolete devices to recover materials under Extended Producer Responsibility schemes;
- Participating in **ENERGY STAR** and other government energy efficient product incentive programs;
- Setting up voluntary agreements under the EU Ecodesign directive on imaging equipment, complex set-top boxes and game consoles.
- Participating in IEEE 1680.x, IEC, ECMA, ETSI & CEN/Cenelec Energy efficiency standard developments and other relevant standards activities that include sections on energy efficiency and carbon footprinting;
- Participating in the iNEMI Roadmap effort, developing metrics and processes for optimising device systems;
- Participating in relevant green labeling and green procurement programs and activities; and
- Reducing the carbon footprint of product packaging and delivery.

03 HELPING ENABLE TRANSFORMATIONAL INNOVATION VIA INTELLIGENT EFFICIENCY

Our member companies' technologies and the newly emerging Internet of Things (IoT) offer vast opportunities for transformational innovation and sustainable growth. Complementing industry efforts to reduce our direct emissions footprint, IoT and other ICT-driven technologies provide an opportunity to reduce the climate footprints of other sectors of society. A recent GeSI report, SMARTer 2030, has estimated the potential benefits to include "a 20 percent reduction of global carbon emissions versus a business-as-usual baseline."

We are beginning to see glimpses of the transformational innovation that is possible, including:

- Smart grids, with sensors deployed in both traditional electric grids and distributed generation networks, that help increase transmission and distribution efficiencies and promote greater visibility to improve system reliability through the use of big data techniques;
- Intelligent transportation systems and connected vehicles that are reducing vehicle emissions while making traveling easier and safer;
- Smart manufacturing processes and engines that are making factory floors far more efficient and productive;
- Building energy management systems that enable comprehensive, systems-based optimisation of energy in large commercial or industrial buildings;
- Smart city projects that allow city leaders to provide more livable and more resilient cities at less cost; Many ICT companies have made commitments under the EU smart cities initiative.

ABOUT DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE represents the digital technology industry in Europe. Our members include some of the world's largest IT, telecoms and consumer electronics companies and national associations from every part of Europe. DIGITALEUROPE wants European businesses and citizens to benefit fully from digital technologies and for Europe to grow, attract and sustain the world's best digital technology companies.

DIGITALEUROPE ensures industry participation in the development and implementation of EU policies. DIGITALEUROPE's members include 59 corporate members and 35 national trade associations from across Europe. Our website provides further information on our recent news and activities: http://www.digitaleurope.org

DIGITALEUROPE MEMBERSHIP

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