BUILDING CARBON NEUTRALITY: WORKING TOGETHER ON CONCRETE SOLUTIONS

M. Karakasoglou¹, A. Katsiamboulas^{1,*}

¹TITAN Cement Company S.A., Athens, Greece (*main@titan.gr)

ABSTRACT

The entry into force of the Paris Agreement^[1] brought about a departure from business as usual in many respects. The transition towards net GHG neutrality is a global trend that generates both risks and opportunities for society and industry. Reducing all GHG emissions is part of a wider sustainability agenda and must be fully consistent with all UN Sustainable Development Goals^[2] and be backed up by a supportive industrial policy to reinforce Europe's industrial competitiveness at global scale. Achieving the Paris targets requires urgent action, long-term political leadership, planning, and a stable legal framework over the next decades; both at EU level and in the Member States. A roadmap based on common metrics to assess the future impact of current climate action may help to determine the most effective and cost-efficient road towards achieving the Paris goals.

By 2050 specific GHG emissions would be reduced by 32% using conventional technologies and by 80% exploiting breakthrough CCS/U technologies^[3]. The cement sector has adopted a carbon neutrality strategy following a life cycle approach. This approach focuses on four pillars of our industrial roadmap: resource efficiency, energy efficiency, carbon capture/ utilization (CCS/U), and product & construction efficiency. In terms of resource efficiency, the circular economy business model is being used to achieve energy and material recovery from waste. Moreover, investment in innovation aims in improving the overall energy efficiency of the industry. Regarding CCS/U technologies research is already being conducted but obstacles and limitations still need to be overcome.

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