

PRESS STATEMENT

Concluding the conference held on 10 March 2016 in Prague on “Post Paris: The Future of Automotive Fuels”, UPEI President, Thierry De Meulder, called for greater realism by European policy makers in the management of the transition to a low carbon economy. “We need to end the anti-oil rhetoric and embrace the opportunities for change that this product brings. Europe has decided on targets for GHG emissions, energy efficiency and the integration of renewables. We don’t need to discuss the “if” anymore – but we do need to be realistic about ‘when’ and ‘how’”.

De Meulder stressed that Europe’s independent fuel suppliers can be partners in this transition. They dispose of a comprehensive infrastructure network and have a thorough knowledge of their customers’ needs, being the closest to the consumer. But in order to be partners in the transition, they urgently need transparency on the market situation so that the right investment conditions can be created to finance the transition.

“Oil will remain in the fuel mix for the foreseeable future. This is a good thing as, currently, oil provides the best opportunity for lowering GHG emissions in transport through the blending of biofuels. Independent fuel suppliers were the first to bring biofuels to the market. They are ready to go further and invest in other solutions – but the right investment climate needs to be created.”

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For further information contact:

Ivan Indraček, Vice President UPEI

info@scs.cz

+420 602 747747

UPEI represents European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of refined petroleum products and their alternatives, supplying Europe’s customers, independently of the major petroleum producers.

Independent suppliers, covering more than a third of Europe’s demand, play a crucial role in an evolving market by bringing competition which is vital to the economy. Their independence enables them to respond rapidly to changes in terms of market structure, products and services, contributing to security of supply on a local, regional and national level.

