

CARBON DISCLOSURE PROJECT

Quantum Leap Required by European Companies in the Utilities, Materials, Energy and Industrials Sectors to Decouple Emissions from Economic Growth

Carbon Disclosure Project launches 2011 Europe 300 report

Paris, France. 22 November 2011. If European companies in the four highest emitting sectors – Utilities, Materials, Energy and Industrials – achieved their current greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets set to 2020, they would deliver an average annual emissions reduction of just 1.7%. This falls short of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommended reduction of 2.65% per annum and underperforms all other sectors combined by 1.3%. This is according to the 2011 edition of the Carbon Disclosure Project's (CDP) Europe 300 report published today,

Moreover, when looking ahead to 2030, these same sectors do not even deliver 0.5% reductions in their cumulative emissions over this timeframe.

The 2011 report, written by Ends on behalf of CDP, analysed disclosures from 271 of the largest European corporations by market capitalisation (representing 90% of the FTSEurofirst 300 index). France, Germany and the UK provide almost 50% of all the responding companies included in this analysis. CDP collects emissions and climate change data annually from the largest companies around the world, including the Europe 300, on behalf of 551 signatory investor institutions, which together manage \$71 trillion in assets worldwide.

The report, launched today in France at an event hosted by Credit Agricole, also shows that European companies demonstrate a high level of carbon awareness and a world leading commitment to disclosure when comparing this year's 90% disclosure rate with the 80% of the FTSE Global 500 that reported to CDP this year. The Europe 300 also holds a leadership position against many other indexes around the world on the proportion of companies with active emissions reduction initiatives.

The Carbon Performance Leadership Index (CPLI) and Carbon Disclosure Leadership Index (CDLI) are revised annually based on company submissions and present the leaders of the Europe 300 in carbon performance and disclosure respectively. The companies on both measures this year are:

Germany:	Bayer, BMW, SAP, Basf
United Kingdom:	Tesco, Royal Bank of Scotland, British American Tobacco, GlaxoSmithKline
Netherlands:	Philips Electronics
France:	AXA, Schneider
Spain:	Ferrovial, Gaz Natural
Swiss:	UBS, Novartis, Swiss RE
Italy:	Fiat

Other report findings include:

- Emissions reduction targets of the Europe 300 are primarily short term (within just three years) although some sectors such as IT and Telecommunications demonstrate more mid range targets to 2020. The report points to sectoral patterns being influenced by differing regulatory

environments, asset lifespans and the ease with which comprehensive, system-wide shifts in emissions can be achieved.

- Although total scope 1 emissions (direct emissions) of the Europe 300 have risen around the world, those emissions within European boundaries have fallen. It is likely that regulation in Europe impacts this, demonstrating the impact that regulation can have and backing up calls for increased global policy to encourage sufficient investment in low carbon technology and drive emissions cuts.
- Greater reporting of scope 3 emissions -- indirect emissions from travel or in the supply chain -- is vital in order to establish the full atmospheric impact of companies. When reported, these emissions are frequently very high when compared with a company's core scope 1 and 2 emissions. The recent supply chain standards launched by the GHG Protocol should help companies improve their quality of reporting on this area over the next year.
- Investors looking to manage climate-related risks and make informed decisions about relative climate change positioning are dependent on detailed disclosures. Despite disclosure leaders demonstrating an average score of 93 this year and average scores for disclosure across the Europe 300 of 71, a rise of 2.5 points from 2010, it is vital that the quality of disclosure continues to improve annually across the whole index.

Dr Craig Mackenzie, technical director, ENDS Carbon says: *"Our analysis indicates that many European companies are demonstrating that innovation and systematic effort can deliver emissions reductions, but there are still many companies who do not demonstrate sufficient commitment to the robust action on climate change required in order to achieve the long-term emissions goals set by EU governments in Copenhagen."*

CDP's CEO Paul Simpson concludes: *"Despite Europe's largest companies showing leadership in reporting and managing carbon, much greater ambition is required in the scale and duration of emissions reduction targets, particularly from the highest emitting sectors. Regulation in Europe appears to be reducing emissions output within European boundaries but clearly longer term policy certainty in Europe is necessary and global policy is essential if business is to take the bold and decisive action required to avoid catastrophic climate change."*

Jean-Christophe Menioux, Chief Risk Officer of the AXA Group, report sponsor, comments: *"It is natural to be tempted to respond to climate change with delay, denial or resignation. Society will then be ill-prepared to face the consequences of these new "man-made natural disasters". We may also approach this situation as a chance to rise to this new challenge, understand its risks and leverage new opportunities. Our response needs to be global and collective to be effective. This is why AXA supports collaborative and complementary frameworks such as the CDP, the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, or the upcoming UN Principles for Sustainable Insurance. We must all make our contribution. Together we will make the difference".*

Note to Editors

About CDP

The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) is an independent not-for-profit organisation providing a transformative global system for companies and cities to measure, disclose, manage and share climate change and water information. Over 3,000 organisations across the world's largest economies now report their greenhouse gas emissions and assessment of climate change risk and opportunity through CDP, in order that they can set reduction targets and make performance improvements. This data is gathered on behalf of 551 institutional investors, holding US\$71 trillion in assets. CDP now holds the largest collection globally of self-reported climate change data. For more information visit www.cdproject.net.

Contacts:

Lisa Lee : +44 (0) 20 7415 7196 / Mob: +44 (0) 7554 430962

Catherine von Altheer : +44 (0) 20 7970 5682 / Mob: +44 (0) 7794 003 903

About the AXA Group

The AXA Group is a worldwide leader in insurance and asset management, with 214,000 employees serving 95 million clients. In 2010, IFRS revenues amounted to Euro 91 billion and IFRS underlying earnings to Euro 3.9 billion. AXA had Euro 1,104 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2010.

The AXA ordinary share is listed on compartment A of Euronext Paris under the ticker symbol CS (ISN FR 0000120628 – Bloomberg: CS FP – Reuters: AXAF.PA). AXA's American Depository Shares are also quoted on the OTC QX platform under the ticker symbol AXAHY.

The AXA Group is included in the main international SRI indexes, such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and FTSE4GOOD.

AXA Media Relations:

Guillaume Borie: +33.1.40.75.49.98

Hélène Caillet: +33.1.40.75.55.51