



Brussels, 1 March 2011

## Tessenderlo Group Leadership Team Summit

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### Energy challenges of the future

#### Jules Kortenhorst

**49 gigaton CO<sub>2</sub> per year, 56 gigaton in 2020 in a business-as-usual scenario. President of the European Climate Foundation, Jules Kortenhorst, was very clear about the future. We need a new industrial revolution. We have made labour ten times more productive. We have to do the same with our carbon productivity.**

The figures and graphs speak for themselves. CO<sub>2</sub> levels are rising and they are rising fast. At the same time there is an unquestionable link with the global temperature change and although it was cold this winter, the average temperature is definitely rising.

#### ► Positive about the future

Kortenhorst is positive about the future. Instead of waiting for international negotiations, local actions are being taken by policy makers. At the same time the private sector is getting on with the job. And Kortenhorst also remarks the positive trend that developing countries are stepping up. Today countries like China are not lagging behind. But maybe what is most important is the mental switch of thinking in terms of an environmental problem to thinking in terms of opportunities.

#### ► A 1.5 to 2.7 trillion dollar opportunity

And what an opportunity it is. A 1.5 to 2.7 trillion dollar opportunity in different industries like the automotive industry, the biochemical industry and the water related industry. "The revolution we are talking about needs huge investments. For example in heat pumps, smart grids and e-cars. But more particularly, we need to neutralise the power sector.

In the EU, we could double the use of biomass. At the same time we need to make sure that biomass is accessible in a sustainable way. A lot of the techniques needed are already profitable today." So it is not only about being energy efficient or driving an electric car, but also about implementing change in a structural way.

Kortenhorst concludes by saying that maybe the most important issue is to change our mindset. "When we are looking for energy we have to look up, not down." The companies who change their mindset and who make sustainability the engine of their business are the winners of tomorrow.

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