



## PRESS RELEASE

# Cement Companies Walking the Walk in Sustainability

**Geneva, 5 March, 2015 – Released today, the results from an independent audit undertaken across the membership of the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), demonstrates that leading cement companies are improving their sustainability through the CSI collaborative approach.**

17 member companies were audited against their commitments and responsibilities set out in the Charter<sup>1</sup> of the CSI, a global effort by 24 major cement producers with operations in more than 100 countries. The results confirm that the Charter enables member companies around the world to better integrate their sustainability practices, seek out opportunity for value creation and manage more effectively their environmental footprints.

Philippe Fonta, Managing Director of the CSI said: “The CSI is unique in bringing together cement companies across the world in mature and emerging markets. The Charter sets out the commitments through a collaborative approach. It reinforces our view that what gets measured gets done.”

The audit showed that long-standing member companies who were more active in the CSI generally received higher scores, reflecting the added value of membership through offering a collaborative platform and developing roadmaps for improving performance across the board.

CSI member companies were visited by auditors from DNV-GL, who mapped the implementation of the Charter in seven key areas:

1. CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions and Energy Management
2. Fuels and Material Use
3. Health and Safety
4. Emissions Monitoring and Reporting
5. Local Impact on Land and Communities
6. Reporting and Communications
7. Governance

---

<sup>1</sup> The companies participating in the CSI sign the CSI Charter and commit to fulfil the requirements, implement the guidelines and report on the key performance indicators as defined by the CSI Charter.

In each area, at least one company scored 100% in terms of implementing commitments of the CSI Charter, although no member achieved perfect scores across all seven areas. This result reflects the robustness of the audit process as well as the relevance of the CSI Charter and its ambitious yet achievable requirements.

In general, higher scores were achieved for the management of energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as for fuels and material use. More technical in nature, these issues have been part of the CSI work program since the launch of its first Agenda for Action in 2002. They have provided significant benefits such as waste recovery, economic savings and nurturing innovation.

The audit also identified areas for improvement, such as biodiversity, communications and relationships with communities. The requirements of the Charter relating to these specific field will be reviewed for clarity and strengthened where necessary.

Member companies participating in the audit found the exercise beneficial for gaining an external, independent view and for driving internal reflection required to review and adjust their implementation strategy.

Bruno Lafont, Chairman and CEO of Lafarge and current co-chairman of CSI commented: “The cement sector fully recognizes its responsibility to mitigate its carbon footprint as well as fulfil its broader responsibilities to society and nature. It was this outlook that led to the original and unique development of the CSI over 10 years ago to advance sustainability among the major cement manufacturers around the world. Since then, the CSI has maintained a leading role to support the reduction of carbon emissions by the sector, as evidenced by this audit. Such an approach is even more important in this year of the COP21, which provides the opportunity for a global roadmap that is more ambitious in its objectives.”

Philippe Fonta commented: “Independent verification of compliance with the CSI Charter is a critical part of this initiative. It enables the CSI to assess the strengths and weaknesses of our Charter while setting the agenda for the future. Results show that achieving 100% in every aspect is challenging, but possible. If one member can do it, it encourages all the other members to strive to reach the same level.”

Future audits will continue to monitor trends in progress and reinforce the global added value of the CSI’s collaborative approach for its members.

**ENDS**

## **Note to Editors**

### **About the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), a CEO-led organization of some 200 forward-thinking global companies, is committed to galvanizing the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. Together with its members, the Council applies its respected thought leadership and effective advocacy to generate constructive solutions and take shared action. Leveraging its strong relationships with stakeholders as the leading advocate for business, the Council helps drive debate and policy change in favor of sustainable development solutions.

The WBCSD provides a forum for its member companies - who represent all business sectors, all continents and a combined revenue of more than \$8.5 trillion, 19 million employees - to share best practices on sustainable development issues and to develop innovative tools that change the status quo. The Council also benefits from a network of 70 national and regional business councils and partner organizations, a majority of which are based in developing countries.

[www.wbcspd.org](http://www.wbcspd.org)

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)

### **About the Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI)**

The Cement Sustainability Initiative (CSI) is a global effort by 24 leading cement producers, with operations in more than 100 countries. Collectively these companies account for around 30% of the world's cement production and range in size from very large multinationals to smaller local producers. All CSI members have integrated sustainable development into their business strategies and operations, as they seek strong financial performance with an equally strong commitment to social and environmental responsibility. The CSI is an initiative of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

[www.wbcspdcement.org](http://www.wbcspdcement.org)

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Irge Olga Aujouannet

WBCSD Communications

Email: [aujouannet@wbcspd.org](mailto:aujouannet@wbcspd.org)

Tel: +41 22 839 3129

Graham Sprigg

IMS Consulting

Email: [graham.sprigg@imsplc.com](mailto:graham.sprigg@imsplc.com)

Tel: +44 117 325 0612