



## Headed by KEK's young professionals, industrial leaders sign up for concrete climate measures

Last Friday (7th February 2020), all five CEOs of TenneT, Shell, Tata Steel, Vattenfall and Veolia, led by the Klimaat en Energie Koepel (KEK, coordinating organisation for climate and energy), signed concrete short-term climate actions. KEK's young professionals want all companies to put a lot more of work in the Climate Agreement and therefore join the boardrooms themselves. KEK chairman Thomas Dekker: "It is time to translate climate ambitions into concrete actions. That requires ambition, decisiveness and leadership."



At Vattenfall's Dutch headquarters in Amsterdam, the CEOs of Tata Steel, Shell, Veolia, Tennet and Vattenfall presented their intended climate actions, which they drew up together with a young professional from their own organisation. The top management talked to the one hundred and twenty young professionals present about leadership, climate challenges and the contribution that both young employees and CEOs can make. Siemens, Greenchoice, Damen, ING and AM also signed up for concrete actions, which will be presented at a follow-up meeting. More organisations are expected to follow suit in the coming months.

Dekker: "KEK wants to make the voices of young professionals heard and therefore also have a say in the level of ambition of the company they work for. This calls for leadership and that is the reason for this event, in which CEOs present nothing less than their concrete climate actions".

"The ambition radiated from the young professionals last Friday, as did the will of the industry. Nevertheless, this speeding up is necessary. That's why they should have coffee or lunch with each other more often. To keep the CEO's focused on ambition and to encourage the young professionals to open their mouths".



Veolia is globally active in water management, energy and raw materials. Hildagarde McCarville, CEO of the Dutch branch: "We must fundamentally and actively change our behaviour, from linear consumption to a more circular approach. For Veolia, circular economics are at the heart of the energy transition. We look at any waste stream or by-product as a renewable resource that can be reclaimed, *upcycled* and reused. This is the only way can we achieve the objectives of the Climate Agreement."

In the Netherlands, for example, the group will have reduced no less than 90% of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from its own decentralised energy and water installations by this year compared to 2015. Veolia achieves this by monitoring waste streams and residual heat online, and then retrieving and reusing these where possible.

Shell promises to reduce emissions from its own plants and help Dutch society become more sustainable. Marjan van Loon, CEO Shell Netherlands: "Shell Nederland supports the Climate Agreement and takes an active role in it. Shell is also going to offer its customers more fuels that are low in CO<sub>2</sub> content. Concrete steps, in addition to the construction of wind and solar parks, are the construction of a Dutch network of hydrogen stations and the supply of green hydrogen for buses. In addition Shell stimulates its own personnel via the Coalitie Anders Reizen (coalition for alternative commuting) to prefer public transport and bicycles over cars. Also, all lease cars will be fossil-free by 2025.

TenneT considers the solutions from a bird's-eye view. CEO Manon van Beek: "The success of the energy transition requires thinking in systems. TenneT is therefore taking the initiative to connect and work together for the best energy system of the future". Over the next ten years, the organisation will therefore invest forty billion Euros in the Netherlands and Germany in high-voltage infrastructure for the energy transition needed to strengthen the onshore grid and to distribute solar and wind energy - including connecting approximately 11.5 GW of wind power at sea. "In this way we will contribute to achieving the 20.2 Mton reduction targets for electricity in 2030."

TenneT's CEO sees the fulfilment of these ambitions as a special role for the young employee. Van Beek: "I invite the young professionals at our table to follow the implementation of these measures. We' will start with a vegan lunch in March."

Martijn Hagens, host and CEO of Vattenfall Netherlands: "It is Vattenfall's global ambition to make fossil-free life possible within one generation." The Swedish group aims for 500 MW of green hydrogen production pilots, of which at least 100 MW in the Netherlands by 2026. It wants to expand its renewable solar, wind and battery production capacity in all markets, and will increase from 370 MW to 2.5 GW of installed renewable capacity in the Netherlands in the coming years.

Theo Henrar, CEO Tata Steel Netherlands: "We must work together to combat global warming. We at Tata Steel are also aware of this. That is why we take many initiatives and cooperate with other parties to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This also involves circularity. Steel is pre-eminently a product that fits in a circular economy, it is 100% recyclable. Already more than 95% of steel is recycled in the Netherlands".



Tata Steel continues to structurally reduce its natural gas consumption through improvements in the energy efficiency of its own processes. The most remarkable measure is the installation of a 100 MW hydrogen plant to be built on the Tata Steel site in 2024. It will produce green hydrogen from the energy of wind farms in the North Sea.

If anything became clear during the meeting, it is that the transition is as much a cultural as it is a technological event. McCarville: "It's about *purpose and values*. At Veolia we believe in *leading by example*. For us, this means a change in culture so that we can become future-proof as a company: an agile way of working, embracing digital solutions and actively promoting reverse mentoring and open innovation".

McCarville gives two concrete examples: "Through our digital service FlexCity, we flexibly switch the generation plants of our industrial customers on or off the grid. For example, 350 MW of flexible capacity is available on the Dutch grid, an important issue in the energy transition. Secondly, we have set up an online platform that allows experts in different countries to share innovations directly with each other, without first passing through the CEOs or managers in the countries. This is a radical transformation and acceleration in the creation of solutions."

For questions, please contact  
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Photo caption: "The five CEOs are signing up for concrete climate action." Photo Jos Hummelen

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