



Turning the Tide on Climate Change:

A European perspective on an international issue

On November 24th, Robert Kandel, a professor at the Ecole Polytechnique, will launch his new book, *“Turning the Tide on Climate Change”*, at the European Parliament in Strasbourg. This event will take place during a press lunch organised under the sponsorship of the French Member of the European Parliament Françoise Grossetête.

This is a popularisation book on climate change issues and its solutions, showing the importance of that challenge for the European Chemical industry and for society in its everyday life concerns, and how solutions by the industry can help to mitigate global warming. This book is intended to be read by people sensitive to the climate change debate as it does not require specialist knowledge of the underlying issues. It aims to be both entertaining and instructive. It has been sponsored by Cefic which, however, does not necessarily endorse all the views of the author.

It is also meant to provide food for thought in the European approach towards the climate change debate. In that respect, the book *“Turning the Tide on Climate Change”* is being launched at a time when European decision makers are increasingly focused on the outcome of the Climate Change Copenhagen meeting of next December under the framework of the United Nations (COP 15).

Indeed, on November 24th, the European Parliament will vote on a resolution on the EU strategy for this conference. Drafted by key Members of the European Parliament, involved on climate change issues for a while, this resolution details some targets that the EU should follow for the COP 15 conference. Supporting the objective of limiting the increase of temperature by 2°C, this resolution recalls the need of *“a global transformation in technology...to accelerate the pace of innovation and increase the scale of demonstration and deployment so that all countries have access to affordable sustainable technologies”*.

In a chapter entitled “Energy and efficiency”, the resolution claims that *“the global transformation to an efficient sustainable economy is not only necessary to pre-empt dangerous climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions but also that it has the potential to increase investments...and to improve the quality of life without compromising the objectives of ensuring access to modern energy services for all”*.

Explaining that *“climate change can be mitigated by using the right tools”*, Robert Kandel’s book provides concrete solutions to such requests and calls for action.

Stressing the fact that *“we all need to act, to change our behaviour and to find innovative solutions”*, it also reminds us that *“if industry is part of the problem, it must also be part of the solution thanks to the CO₂ savings it offers”*. Even if climate change is an international issue, it may have some more European solutions. Why? Because, *“the European chemical industry has developed a long tradition of R&D leading to products able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions” in areas like housing, mobility, food, energy.*