

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016...

on Political Influence... We launched and updated our “Ceramic EARTH” campaign to help unlock the investment potential of the UK Ceramics Industry. A very active Ceramics All Party Parliamentary Group has been formed with parliamentarians asking questions to Ministers, including several Prime Minister’s Questions. We supported two Westminster Hall debates on ceramics, over 15 site visits by MPs and MEPs and met over 50 MPs / Peers / MEPs. We hosted a successful parliamentary reception with 18 parliamentarians including 3 Ministers and a Shadow Secretary of State. We held a week long exhibition in Parliament celebrating the diversity of the ceramics industry and outlining key priorities. We stepped up our media profile to match. We also continued to be active within the APPG for energy intensive industries, speaking at both events in 2016. *All this has raised the profile of the industry*

on EU Referendum... we explained how a BREXIT vote might affect member businesses. We took a firm position, based on member polling. We fully engaged our Board to ensure we were well prepared for a “leave” result. We refocused the team to ensure member priorities on Brexit-related topics are adequately covered and that key new officials, select committees and Ministers / Shadow Ministers are being briefed. We have contributed already to 6 select committee enquiries on Brexit.

on EU ETS... we focussed on the seemingly impossible challenge to retain full “carbon leakage” status for all subsectors for 2021-30 as part of the long term reform of EU ETS. The two key MEP committees rejected “tiering” proposals, but a new “border adjustment mechanism” challenge recently emerged.

on Energy... Seven of BCC’s most electro-intensive members were successful in obtaining renewables compensation – a benefit in 2016 of £4.7 Million. We agreed a collaborative Action Plan with government on our sector’s decarbonisation “Roadmap to 2050”. We retained the Mineralogical Processing Exemption and Climate Change Agreements, with no target review, for members from the Business Energy Tax review, saving money. We continue to Chair the Energy Intensive Users’ Group.

on the Industrial Emissions Directive... we have begun the significant preparations for the BREF review in 2018 and are co-chairing the European Ceramics task force.

on Trade... we actively opposed Market Economy Status for China and helped achieve a resounding rejection of this proposal by MEPs. We’ve started work to retain Anti-Dumping levies on tiles. We have engaged with the new Trade Department to outline our members’ post-Brexit priorities.

on Health and Safety... we continued to work closely with the HSE, Unions and other Stakeholders to reinvigorate Pledge. We have focused on a collaborative and proportionate approach to respond to new HSE guidance for health surveillance for exposure to Respirable Crystalline Silica and helped our members improve performance here.

on Food contact legislation We continued to work with the European Commission and Food Standards Agency to ensure food contact legislation is appropriate.

on Minerals and Water... we campaigned to ensure water abstraction reform does not affect adversely continued sustainable use of water. We actively participated in the Government’s Red Tape Review of the Mineral Extraction Sector that we had previously initiated.

on Innovation... we organised the third of our annual meetings between industrialists and academics in ceramics, on the theme of energy efficiency, with almost 100 people present.

... AND OUR AIMS FOR 2017

on Political Influence... we will continue to refocus and build on our work to raise the profile of the industry and gain influence on critical issues.

on Industrial Strategy... we will develop and propose to Government a deal for a sector-led, place-based strategy to address productivity issues and unlock investment potential.

on Brexit we will continue to ensure Brexit-related priority topics are adequately covered and that opportunities, particularly on trade and energy / climate are analysed and articulated with opinion formers. We will work with a variety of organisations to ensure manufacturers' priorities are addressed adequately.

on EU ETS... we need the European Parliament and the European Council of Ministers (in Trialogue with the European Commission) to reject any "border adjustment mechanism" and "tiering proposals" and ensure adequate carbon leakage protection for direct and indirect emissions costs. We need to influence the UK to develop and adopt a low cost, manufacturing-friendly alternative after Brexit.

on Energy... we will fight to ensure our seven most electro-intensive member businesses can transition to an exemption for renewables cost and will try and extend this to apply to more members. We will continue campaigning for abolition of the UK Carbon Price Floor. On Roadmaps, we will progress, with minimal resource, focussed priority projects with government to help decarbonise the sector. We will press for further UK simplifications in energy reporting, greater energy security, including more gas storage and for the environmentally responsible development of indigenous shale gas.

on the Industrial Emissions Directive... we will finalise our approach for the BREF review in 2018 and in parallel develop options for a simple and cost-effective UK system after Brexit.

on Trade... we have to work collaboratively with other sectors to ensure the UK develops adequate, accessible, affordable and timely trade defence measures to be used at Brexit. We will continue to influence on our trade requirements after Brexit to minimise the damage and maximise future opportunities.

on Health and Safety... we will launch Phase 4 of our sector Health and Safety Pledge. We will help our members comply with regulatory changes, particularly around Respirable Crystalline Silica and REACH.

on Food contact legislation We will influence emerging UK and EU legislation to ensure a fair and manageable approach.

on Minerals and Water.....We will continue to work with Government to deliver improvements to the implementation of planning and environmental permitting requirements for minerals extraction via the new Strategic Minerals Forum. We recognise the growing industry concerns in relation to safeguarding vs. use of land for other purposes. We will work with the Environment Agency and Defra to influence water regulatory reform.

on Innovation... we will continue to encourage better engagement between industrialists and academics and for the funding to help the development of breakthrough technologies for energy / carbon reduction.

on Apprenticeship Levy... we will provide advice to help members maximise recoverability of their levy.