

## PRESS RELEASE

# FURNACE FOR THE FUTURE PROJECT SELECTED FOR STAGE 2 OF THE EU INNOVATION FUND

**The European Container Glass Industry project has been selected as one of the top 70 proposals rated as highly strategic to the achievement of the Paris Climate Agreement.**

**Brussels, Tuesday 30 March 2021**

The Furnace for the Future (F4F) <sup>(1)</sup> has been selected out of 311 projects to progress to the second phase of the EU Innovation Fund <sup>(2)</sup>, one of the world's largest funding programmes for the demonstration of innovative, low-carbon technologies.

The F4F project is a breakthrough technology, which will enable the industry to switch to renewable electricity and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by up to 60% in the furnace (50% for the whole factory). Container glass production currently uses a mix of roughly 80% gas and 20% electricity. By inverting this to have a mix of roughly 20% gas and 80% renewable electricity, the carbon footprint of glass packaging will be dramatically reduced.

*"We are honoured to be among the 70 projects considered by the European Commission as strategic to a climate-neutral Circular Economy. This brings us great pride as we prepare to enter the second round of the application and make the F4F a reality as soon as possible"* comments Michel Giannuzzi FEVE President. *"The Furnace for the Future represents a key step towards a sustainable future for glass packaging. With this project we will address the priorities of our customers and strengthen our relationship with them"*, adds the FEVE President.

Electric melting already exists but is limited to small-scale furnaces for clear glass with limited recycled glass content. The F4F will make electric melting work in a large-scale, industrial hybrid oxyfuel furnace, running on 80% renewable electricity, for all glass colours, using high amounts of recycled glass.

The F4F project is technically and financially supported by 19 container glass companies who have signed a binding agreement and who, together, represent over 90% of production in Europe. Ardagh Group has been selected to build the furnace at their Obernkirchen site in Germany and will make the application as the beneficiary, strongly supported by the industry-wide consortium. Each of the industry partners will co-fund the project and in return will have access to the technology and know-how. Working as a sector has many advantages for the subsequent roll out and scalability of the technology.

*"We are strongly committed to making our industry transition to a resource-efficient and low-carbon economy" concludes Adeline Farrelly, FEVE Secretary General. "We welcome the support from public institutions and from our partners, which will help us make this transition real."*

## ENDS

- (1) You can find more information on the F4F on the FEVE website <https://feve.org/about-glass/furnace-for-the-future/>
- (2) The EU Innovation Fund will provide EUR 10 billion of support over 2020-2030 for the commercial demonstration of innovative low-carbon technologies, aiming to bring industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe to the market, and support its transition to climate neutrality.

### About FEVE

FEVE is the Federation of European manufacturers of glass containers for food and beverage and flacons for perfumery, cosmetics and pharmacy markets. Its members produce over 80 billion glass containers per year. The association has some 60 corporate members belonging to approximately 20 independent corporate groups. Their 150 manufacturing plants are located across 23 European States and maintain 125.000 direct and indirect jobs along the total supply chain. See more at [www.feve.org](http://www.feve.org).

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