

For immediate release

European Parliament Members Visit Koehler Paper: Talks Focus on Energy Prices

- **Koehler Paper emphasized the need for competitive energy prices**
- **Energy policy was main topic of conversation**
- **Extensive decarbonization steps by the paper industry were presented**

Oberkirch, 07/14/2025 – A delegation of Members of the European Parliament recently paid a visit to the Koehler Paper site in Kehl. During the visit, MEPs from the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) were able to get an on-site impression of just how urgently the paper industry needs internationally competitive energy prices.

Long-term reduction in energy prices vital in order to secure competitiveness in Germany

Koehler Group COO Dr. Stefan Karrer said: “In order to be able to ensure job security and value creation in Germany in a lasting and sustainable manner, we really need to once again have energy prices that are internationally competitive and can be reliably budgeted for. Due to incredibly high energy costs in Germany, we’re experiencing enormous competitive disadvantages in an industry where competition is global.” The fact that the paper products made by Koehler Paper – a Koehler Group company – are used worldwide makes this need even more urgent. More specifically, all of the company’s large production facilities are in Germany and around 70% of its products are exported, which underscores why the family business needs to use the international market as its benchmark.

Ambitious decarbonization strategy in progress

The Koehler Group has committed itself to an extensive and ambitious decarbonization strategy. One example is a project that cost 73 million euros and that went online at the beginning of this year: The company’s formerly coal-fired power plant at its production facility in Oberkirch was converted to use biomass, cutting CO₂ emissions by around 150,000 metric tons a year. In line with its “2030 Koehler Promise,” the family business wants to generate more renewable energy using its own plants than is required for its paper production operations by 2030.

During a conversation with ITRE MEPs, Jan Christoph Schaffrath, Manager of Energy and Climate Policy at the DIE PAPIERINDUSTRIE e.V. German paper industry association, went over the huge variety and effectiveness of the climate neutrality strategies pursued by the German paper industry. He pointed out that providing fair protection against competitors outside of Europe who are not making efforts in the fight against climate change would be a solid foundation for a successful transformation.

With its deep local roots and its success on international markets, Koehler serves as a perfect example of what the industry can offer in exchange. A perfect example is how the company committed itself to an

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extensive transformation process over ten years ago by starting Koehler Renewable Energy. If suitable policies are implemented and enforced, the whole paper industry should be able to resolutely follow this path as well.



Figure: Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy visit the Koehler Paper site in Kehl.

Source: Koehler Group

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About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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