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Oil bosses call for a strong deal at Paris climate talks

CEOs of top oil and gas firm unite in call to limit emissions but stop short of outlining any clear goals towards this

CEOs of 10 global oil and gas companies all for effective Paris deal

CEOs of 10 global oil and gas companies called for a global carbon pricing system and for gas to be part of the solution to lowering emissions. Photograph: Eric Piermont/AFP/Getty Images

Reuters

Friday 16 October 2015 05.53 EDT



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Oil and gas industry leaders on Friday launched a final charm offensive to highlight the sector's relevance in the global fight against climate change before a key summit in [Paris](#) later this year.

In an unprecedented show of unity, the bosses of Europe's top oil companies will be joined at a press conference by the heads of the

national oil companies of Saudi Arabia and Mexico, who will lend their support to the initiative.

The leaders of 10 gas and oil companies [issued a statement](#) calling for an “effective” agreement at the [United Nations climate change summit in December](#), recognising that current greenhouse emissions were inconsistent with the goal of limiting global warming to 2C.

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The companies vowed to collaborate to limit gas flaring from refineries but stopped short of outlining clear goals to limit emissions, which critics have called for.

The joint stance, at a time when all companies are struggling with a sharp drop in oil prices, also highlights a deep rift with US oil companies such as Exxon Mobil and Chevron, who stayed away from the initiative.

The chief executives of Total, Britain’s BP and BG Group, Italy’s Eni, Norway’s Statoil, Spain’s Repsol, Saudi Aramco and Pemex will [again call for a global pricing system on carbon](#), which they say will give an economic incentive for the private sector to use cleaner sources of energy and to develop new technologies such as carbon capture and storage (CCS).

They will again urge governments to ditch coal in favour of less polluting natural gas in power plants and heavy industry.

For many of the companies, this is a fight for the future of the oil and gas sector in the public debate as a rising number of organisations and politicians call to minimise the use of fossil fuels in favour of renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, while seeking to ostracise oil companies among investors.

“Sometimes in all these discussions you have the impression that all fossil fuels are the bad guys. But the bad guys are part of the solution,” Total’s CEO Patrick Pouyanné told a gas and electricity summit in Paris on Thursday.

“Whatever people think, we still need fossil fuels. We need to make advocacy for gas. We need to explain to our policy makers that gas has to be encouraged,” Pouyanné said.

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“Policy makers are not convinced in many countries that gas is part of the

solution for climate change, we in the industry need to speak up.”

The meeting comes shortly before diplomats gather in Bonn from Monday for the last formal session ahead of the Paris climate talks, where negotiators from almost 200 nations will meet to try to forge a global climate change agreement, designed to curb rising greenhouse gas emissions.

The International [Energy](#) Agency forecasts oil will remain the largest energy source by 2040, although its share will decline, while renewable sources of energy will grow.

All major emitting countries [have now submitted plans to the UN detailing how much they plan to curb their emissions](#).

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