

Press release

Clean Industrial Deal: right diagnosis but more ‘radical change’ is urgently needed to turn the tide, says EUROFER

Brussels, 26 February 2025 – The Clean Industrial Deal, unveiled today by the European Commission, acknowledges the strategic role of the European steel industry and the existential challenges it faces. Yet, concrete solutions are either left open for later decisions, such as those on global steel overcapacity and loopholes in the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), or addressed with incomplete measures, as in the case of energy prices. Without structural solutions to these issues, laudable initiatives on lead markets, local content and circular economy risk being insufficient to turn the tide, notes the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

“Decisive measures on trade, CBAM and energy prices are essential in the immediate term to safeguard European steelmaking. The Commission identifies the right challenges but falls short of providing concrete policy responses to turn the tide”, said Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER).

“We are very much looking forward to the first meeting of the Commission’s Strategic Dialogue on Steel, convened by President von der Leyen on 4 March. Taking stock of the political direction set by the Clean Industrial Deal, the Strategic Dialogue will be a crucial moment to identify concrete and timely actions for the announced Steel and Metals Action Plan. Sector-specific measures with a short-term effect on the recovery of the steel sector must be swiftly deployed”, continued Mr. Eggert.

“Europe is at a geopolitical and economic crossroads. At a moment where alliances are being redrawn and the EU’s security is under threat, European steel is not only a symbol but a determiner of European sovereignty. As Mario Draghi pointed out, our industry has become even more strategic and it is crucial for the EU to deliver ‘radical change’ in order to ensure competitiveness, decarbonisation, business stability and, ultimately, prosperity and autonomy”, concluded Mr. Eggert.

Notes for editors

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About the European Steel Association (EUROFER)

EUROFER AISBL is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER full members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are members. The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83.

About the European steel industry

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €191 billion and directly employs around 303,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 140 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU Member States provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe. Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy.