

P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Green Deal “challenges Europe to establish its raw materials leadership”, metals industry says

- **The EU’s Green Deal and higher climate ambition will accelerate Europe’s demand increase for metals in low-carbon technologies including batteries, clean mobility, and renewable energy technologies.**
- **Europe’s Circular Economy leadership will be central to securing a domestic and sustainable materials supply to meet this demand, in complement to primary production**
- **In parallel, Europe’s industries are challenged to dramatically improve their climate and environmental performance, demonstrating the necessity of an enabling EU industrial strategy**

Brussels, 11 December 2019: “Today’s Green Deal raises Europe’s climate and environmental ambition and sets a clear trajectory towards 2050. Our pressing question is how Europe will now secure the higher quantities of raw materials that its climate targets require”, Guy Thiran, Director General of Eurometaux, the European metals association, said on the publication day of the European Commission’s Green Deal.

“We know that global demand for metals is projected to increase exponentially from the climate transition: according to the World Bank by 200% in wind turbines, 300% in solar panels & 1000% in batteries. Yet while Europe’s climate progress outpaces other areas of the world, we are falling behind in the global raw materials race; especially compared with more polluting regions. Today’s Green Deal throws down the gauntlet for Europe to establish its own raw materials leadership, while addressing their environmental & social impact”

“Europe’s renewed Circular Economy ambition will be central to boosting our domestic metals production, alongside primary sources. Over 50% of base metals produced in Europe are already from recycled sources compared with only 18% worldwide. We see a big opportunity to further improve our sustainability leadership. Now is the time to raise Europe’s recycling performance for electronics waste, vehicles, construction products, packaging and more”.

The Green Deal communication also challenges European industries to tackle their environmental impacts as part of climate-neutrality and zero-pollution goals, including greenhouse gas emissions, other emissions to air and water and safe use of chemicals. The European metals industry continues contributing to these discussions through its leading role in the EU’s *Masterplan for transforming energy-intensive industries*, and its voluntary improvement programme with the European Chemicals Agency (*MISA – the Metals & Inorganics Sectoral Approach*).

Thiran concluded: “We recognise that Europe’s climate-neutrality and zero-pollution ambitions will demand continued progress from European industries to address their climate & environmental impacts. Our sector already operates at world leading standards and is an industrial electrification frontrunner; with a built-in potential to lower its carbon footprint by 81% vs. 1990 levels in a decarbonised power system.

“The EU must partner today’s Green Deal with an equally ambitious Industrial Strategy, which allows us to make long-term investments into improving our capacity & environmental performance. Bold action & coherent regulation is needed to establish a level playing field and fair competition for best-performing European companies, when other global players are not all subject to the same rules.

“To meet the scale of Europe’s rising metals demand we will need to focus on boosting all stages of the raw materials value chain. That means not only increasing recycling, but also looking into new opportunities for sustainable mining, and safeguarding our industrial base for primary metals production and their transformation”

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About Eurometaux: Eurometaux is a trade association representing the collective European non-ferrous metals industry, including smelters, refiners, transformers and recyclers of all non-ferrous metals produced industrially in Europe. In total the industry employs 500,000 people across over 900 facilities, with an annual turnover of €120bn.

In October 2019, Eurometaux released a report – [Metals for a Climate-Neutral Europe: A 2050 Blueprint](#) – which outlines the European non-ferrous metals industry’s potential and challenges in meeting a 2050 climate-neutrality target, plus five recommendations for an enabling EU industrial strategy.

Since 2018, Eurometaux and the European Chemicals Agency have signed a framework for cooperation – the [Metals and Inorganics Sectoral Approach](#) – in order to improve data on metals substances in REACH registration dossiers and advancing science and technical issues.

