

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

Updated Industrial Strategy prioritises raw materials resilience and industry decarbonisation

- **Today's updated EU industrial strategy re-emphasises the importance for Europe to strengthen its open strategic autonomy to boost Europe's climate & digitalisation transitions**
- **Metals industry welcomes actions to address and reduce strategic dependencies in key sectors, such as energy intensives, at the basis of the twin transitions**
- **Measures supporting the climate transition of electricity-intensive industries & to address global trade and competition imbalances are essential, notably low-carbon electricity for industry at competitive prices**

Brussels, 05 May 2021: "The updated Industrial Strategy re-emphasises the importance of speeding up Europe's climate & digitalisation ambitions. Both are dependent on a secure and sustainable access to strategic raw materials, which Europe should keep at the top of its strategic sectors list", says Guy Thiran, Director General of Eurometaux. "Europe has already recognized the need to boost investments in raw materials, also through the establishment of the European Raw Materials alliance (ERMA), to which we're actively contributing".

"Metals are the key enabling raw material of Europe's Green Deal and will be demanded in higher quantities for clean energy and digital technologies. The Communication highlights that Europe is largely dependent on other countries, especially China, for a large variety of materials, including base and critical metals. We welcome today's further analysis of dependencies in raw materials and batteries as key elements of Europe's twin transition and stand ready to provide our industry's support in reinforcing the EU's position in global value chains, also through international partnerships and an effective EU trade policy".

Investing into sustainable metals production and recycling while establishing a level playing field through EU competition policy reform and revised energy and environmental State Aid rules should support Europe's industry's competitiveness and decarbonization. Europe should work to sustainably secure the metals and minerals required in higher volumes for its batteries, electric cars and renewable energies, through domestic production which has a carbon footprint up to eight times lower than China and other regions, also building on the recommendations of the 2019 [industrial transformation masterplan](#). By encouraging investment into European production, the EU's industrial strategy will help to lower dependence on carbon-intensive metals imports from other regions of the world. An adequate carbon leakage protection is essential to achieve this.

Guy Thiran added "Europe's industrial policies must aim to boost sustainable metals production from primary and secondary sources, while providing the major support required for transitioning to climate-neutrality, notably through stable access to low-carbon energy sources. We welcome measures such as the promotion of renewable Power Purchase Agreements, while we highlight the unsuitability of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism for our sector. Finally, we remind that coherence across policy areas, such as energy, circular economy and chemicals policies will be essential to effectively reach the objectives of the EU Green Deal".

Elsewhere, the metals industry welcomes that the Commission has decided to promote carbon contracts for difference (CfDs). However, it is important that their implementation does not hinder the promotion of industrial electrification a key decarbonization pathway. Guy Thiran concluded "We need breakthrough technologies in Europe but revenues from the ETS should be used to promote industrial electrification as a key aspect of industry decarbonization and reaching EU Climate neutrality".

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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. Our [2050 Blueprint](#) outlines the framework conditions required for transitioning towards climate-neutrality.