

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

Eurometaux: New Leadership to Push for European Strategic Autonomy

December 2, Brussels - Today Eurometaux formally announced their new Director General, Dr. James Watson, tasked with leading the association representing the vital non-ferrous metals sector in Europe. The sector is currently beset with challenges, yet is crucial to achieving strategic autonomy in Europe. He succeeds the outgoing Director General Guy Thiran, who leaves the Association after twenty-five years of service.

Recently re-elected President of Eurometaux, Evangelos Mytilineos, CEO and Chairman of METLEN Energy & Metals, stated, “We are delighted to have James, with his vast experience and fresh view, join us at this critical time for the sector. The coming months and years are crucial to determining whether we, the European metals sector, will recover and thrive. The energy price crisis still looms over Europe, leaving numerous manufacturing sites across the EU mothballed or curtailed. We need rapid implementation of creative, and realistic ideas to support our sector now and we expect incoming policymakers to deliver Europe’s modern Industrial Deal. I have no doubt that James will help me and the Management Board to navigate the European metals industry in these troubled waters, with determination and hard work.”

Watson commented, “This is the right place to be in terms of the importance of the sector and working on the cocktail of regulation that our members are facing. We need to address the cost of energy for metal manufacturers urgently, we are the most electro-intensive manufacturing sector and are therefore significantly impacted by the price of electricity. We also need to see regulation simplified in the coming legislative mandate of the European Commission, to give our organisations the opportunity to create jobs, wealth and stability for communities. I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with these leading organisations to ensure we have a thriving non-ferrous metals sector in Europe.”

The sector is essential for Europe’s defence, energy transition to renewable energy and digital transition, however many manufacturing plants remain idle across the continent due to the high cost of energy in Europe.

Eurometaux is calling for urgent actions to strengthen resilient European raw materials value chains and equip our companies with the necessary tools to compete globally. Achieving Europe’s clean supply chain objectives will require new and simplified EU-level financing and comprehensive measures to eliminate contradictions and unnecessary complexities in existing EU legislation.

For more information, please contact: James Watson, Director General, watson@eurometaux.be

About Eurometaux: Eurometaux is a trade association representing the collective European non-ferrous metals industry, including miners, smelters, refiners, fabricators and recyclers of the base metals, precious metals, and minor metals needed for the twin transition. In total the industry employs directly 500,000 people and indirectly more than 3 million across over 900 production facilities, with an annual turnover of €120bn.

[Eurometaux | European non-ferrous metals association](https://www.eurometaux.be)

