

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

New 2050 framework should be the catalyst for an effective EU industrial strategy

Brussels, 28 November 2018 – Europe’s non-ferrous metals industry welcomes the European Commission’s publication today of an updated 2050 long-term strategy for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

It’s positive that today’s publication is starting to look deeper than headline targets and beginning to evaluate what framework conditions are needed for energy-intensive industries to support Europe’s transition. Our sector also backs the EU’s focus on strategic raw materials and Circular Economy. We now emphasise the importance of Europe’s 2050 framework being followed by a meaningful EU industrial strategy.

Guy Thiran, Eurometaux’s Director General, stated: “Today’s 2050 framework should be the catalyst for the EU to develop a full and comprehensive industrial strategy for supporting energy-intensive industries in their transition. Our sector has an ambition to support the European Commission’s 2050 objectives. Recent studies have concluded that the EU’s existing policy framework requires an urgent update to really support breakthrough innovations and competitiveness in our sector and others. Now’s the time for regulators and industry to work closely together”.

A 2018 [study by the Institute for European Studies](#), commissioned on behalf of 11 energy intensive sectors, has recommended several conditions for the EU to design an efficient industrial policy. These conditions include adequate carbon leakage protection, an ambitious research programme, globally competitive energy prices, effective financing mechanisms, incentives for public procurement and support to the creation of industrial clusters.

Of particular importance to the non-ferrous metals industry, the EU’s strategy shows the importance of sufficient, reliable and competitively priced low-carbon electricity being made available to enable industry’s transition. Forecasts estimate that energy-intensive industries could require up to 4,430 TWh of electricity by 2050 to support their decarbonisation efforts, compared with only 581 TWh in 2017.

Guy Thiran continued: “Our sector’s decarbonisation potential is heavily dependent on the availability of sufficient, reliable and competitively priced low-carbon electricity. In Member States such as Germany, our overall CO2 footprint could be reduced by approximately 75% if fully decarbonised electricity is made available at competitive prices, and integration challenges are overcome. Today’s strategy confirms that this will be one of the most important framework conditions for the transition to a low-carbon industry in Europe.

We also welcome the strategy’s focus on securing access to raw materials and establishing a Circular Economy. The European Commission rightly recognises that Europe’s low-carbon leadership is dependent on a competitive industrial base for strategic raw materials. Metals demand is projected to rise more steeply than any other raw material by 2050, due to their essential use in low-carbon mobility, renewable energy and batteries. By combining efficient primary production & maximised recycling, we can make sure those metals are made cleanly in Europe”

ABOUT EUROMETAUX

Eurometaux is the decisive voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. With 500,000 employees and an annual turnover of €120bn, our members represent an essential industry for European society that businesses in almost every sector depend on. Together, we are leading Europe towards a more circular future through the endlessly recyclable potential of metals.

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