

## EUROPEAN STEEL FOR EUROPEAN PROSPERITY: FORGING A SUSTAINABLE STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE EU

### A PILLAR OF PROSPERITY

The European steel ecosystem provides 306,000 direct jobs across 22 EU Member States and supports over 2.2 million indirect and induced jobs in the EU, creating €143 billion of Gross Value Added per year across sectors. Steel is a pillar of European prosperity, and our industry a standard bearer of the EU's high labour and ethical standards.

Beyond numbers, steel is the foundation of most EU clean value chains, ensuring resilience in a context of geopolitical uncertainty. From trains, cars, bikes, windmills, solar panels, to critical infrastructure and everyday items, steel is the core of the better world we aim to build.

### THE GREEN TRANSITION'S BEST ALLY

Innately circular and 100% recyclable, steel is not just a material, it is a testament to Europe's resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainability. With over 3,500 grades of steel – 75% of which have been developed in the last two decades – European steel is stronger, lighter, and greener than ever before. The EU boasts an 88% steel recycling rate, while in 2021 more than half of our steel production was made from recycled steel, positioning European producers as global leaders in circular steel.

Over 60 low-carbon steel projects are planned or underway across the EU, aiming to reduce CO2 emissions by 81.5 million tonnes annually by 2030. The first ones should start operations by 2026. With the right conditions in place, the future of the clean tech industry will be made in Europe, and through continuous investment in decisive technologies, we pave the way for a net zero future.

*With an ambitious target to cut CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, European steel is not just adapting to the transition, it's leading it.*



DIRECT JOBS  
**306,000**



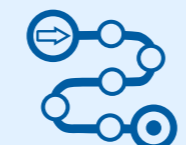
INDIRECT AND  
INDUCED JOBS  
**2.2 MILLION**



GROSS ADDED  
VALUE PER YEAR  
**€143 BILLION**



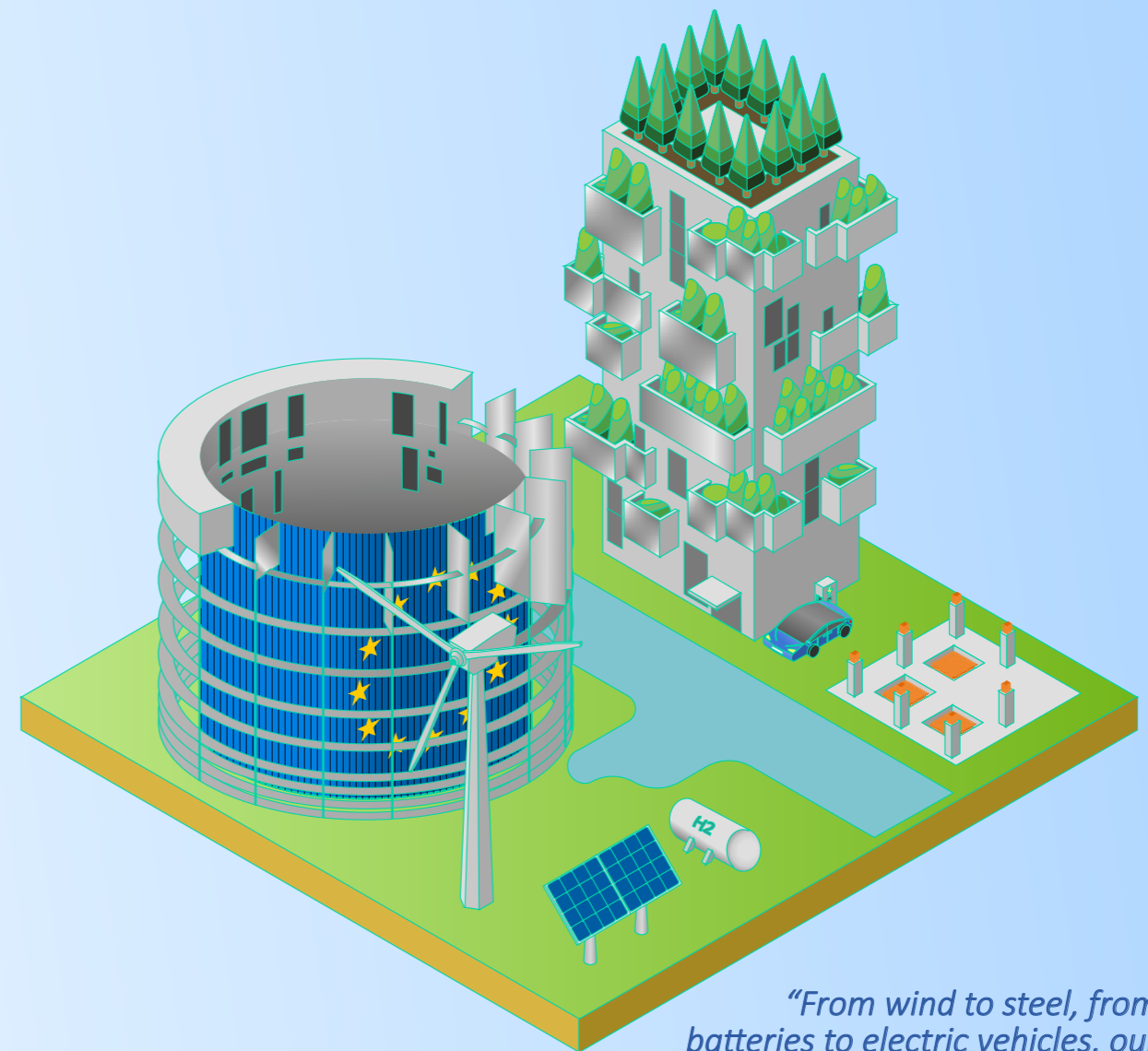
RECYCLING RATE  
**88%**



LOW CARBON  
PROJECTS  
**+60**

# STRONGER WITH EUROPEAN STEEL

## MANIFESTO 2024-2029



*“From wind to steel, from batteries to electric vehicles, our ambition is crystal clear: the future of our clean tech industry has to be made in Europe.”*

State of the Union Address,  
13 September 2023  
Ursula von der Leyen  
Commission President

European Steel Association

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**EUROFER**  
THE EUROPEAN STEEL ASSOCIATION

# EUROPEAN STEEL

## MADE TO MAKE THE FUTURE

Europe is on the cusp of a transformative era. The Green Deal needs to deliver on ambitious climate goals while ensuring continued prosperity.

European economic integration was built with steel, the backbone of Europe's growth, contributing billions to the economy and providing jobs to millions of Europeans. As EUROFER, the European Steel Association, we believe the future of a green Europe can only be forged with European steel.

### HOW TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE, EUROPEAN STEEL?

The future of 'Green Steel' begins here in Europe and will become a global reality if we support our own industrial ecosystems throughout this transition. Europe-made steel has a strategic role and enables a net-zero economy, but today it faces strong headwinds from the energy crisis, unfair international competition, and growing unilateral carbon costs. Ensuring the enabling conditions for the transition of energy-intensive industries -- such as steel -- that are essential for clean tech value chains must be at the top of today's and the post-2024 EU agenda.

We call on policy makers to prioritize the following five pillars:

# 1

#### DRIVE A JOINT INDUSTRIAL POLICY & SPUR INVESTMENTS

Streamline across all policy areas a joint green industrial policy that spurs investments, coordinated by an "Executive Vice-President for Industrial Transition and Made in Europe". Provide sufficient financial resources for the transition, making access easier, clearer and expedite. Establish lead markets for green products to further support investment via public procurement criteria, GHG benchmarks and other market incentives.

# 2

#### PROMOTE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE FOSSIL-FREE ENERGY

Urgently deliver internationally competitive energy prices for industry. Reconsider all options in the Electricity Market Design, as well as other complementary measures. Accelerate production, transmission and distribution of clean electricity and hydrogen in Europe. Prioritise the use of hydrogen in sectors that deliver the most CO2 reductions.

# 3

#### GIVE EU TRADE POLICY RENEWED IMPETUS

Establish an effective EU-US Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel to tackle global emissions and address excess capacity. Enforce a robust trade policy based on reciprocity against unfair practices, supported by the EU steel safeguard and Trade Defence Instruments. Implement an effective Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism to restore a level playing field and prevent carbon leakage. Propose a solution for Europe to maintain its competitive edge and exports.

# 4

#### SECURE ACCESS TO CRITICAL RAW MATERIALS

Champion the use of steel scrap to align with the EU's circular economy goals, valorise it and curb its export to nations with lower environmental and social standards. Guarantee a consistent supply of both primary and secondary raw materials to manufacture the components of the transition, while saving natural resources and emissions.

# 5

#### INSPIRE, ATTRACT AND RETAIN STEELMAKERS

Promote new jobs in green steelmaking as a professional career among young generations to attract talent and support the sector's transition. Provide adequate training and academic opportunities. Upskill and reskill existing employees to achieve a fair transition, inspire and retain qualified workforce.