

An Action Plan for Steel and Metals

March 2025

Our European Union was built on a community of coal and steel. Today, this sector is a key building block of Europe's green and digital transition and defence capabilities, and more broadly of the EU's economic security and social stability.



The Action Plan builds on the Steel Dialogue, and will address the following challenges:



Tackle **high energy costs**



Shield the industry from unfair
international competition



Enable and support **circularity**
and **decarbonisation**
investments

The Action Plan will:



Ensure Clean & Affordable Energy:

- Lowering energy costs for energy-intensive industries through Power Purchasing Agreements and lower network tariffs and taxes
- **Accelerating access to** energy infrastructure
- **Channeling renewable and low carbon hydrogen** to key areas



Prevent Carbon Leakage:

- Addressing **carbon leakage** for CBAM goods exported to third countries
- **Extending CBAM** to downstream products and strengthening anti-circumvention tools



Promote European Industrial Capacities:

- Tightening current **steel safeguard** to account for latest market developments
- Speed up work to find long **term solution against unfair practices** from trade partners
- Working towards the launch of an investigation for safeguards in the aluminium sector
- Better monitoring and prevention of circumvention of trade defence measures



Boost Circularity for Metals:

- Boosting EU **scrap metal** demand through **recycled content** and a **Single Market for waste**
- Keeping more scrap metal in Europe, including by levelling the playing field with trade partners



Defend Quality Industrial Jobs:

- A **European Fair Transition Observatory** to ensure a just transition for workers
- Access to EU funds for steel and metals sectors conditional on social and environmental standards



Support Decarbonisation Investments:

- Under the **Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act**: i) resilience and sustainability criteria to foster demand of EU steel, ii) a voluntary label on carbon intensity of steel products
- **€150 million** from **the Research Fund for Coal and Steel**
- **€1 billion pilot auction** supporting industrial decarbonisation and electrification