

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

## The Clean Industrial Deal must not be a missed opportunity

**Brussels, 26 February.** The launch of the Clean Industrial Deal confirms that competitiveness of European industry must be at the heart of all regulatory initiatives from the European Commission. This must not be only a lip service to the struggles facing the European metals industry to survive in a highly competitive world, but must deliver lasting support for our sector.

Eurometaux Director General, James Watson stated: ‘The Clean Industrial Deal is a small step in the right direction for European industry, but more effort will need to be made to guarantee that energy prices reduce for industrial consumers. We are still dealing with an energy crisis that is causing vital metal processing and recycling plants to close. Given the relevance of our sector to the energy transition, digitalisation and European security we hope that the regulatory initiatives coming out of this Deal will create the framework we need to thrive. This must not be a missed opportunity.’

The main challenge the metals industry faces is the cost of energy in Europe – up to 4 times higher than in the United States and twice as high as in China – and the Affordable Energy Action Plan only touches the edges of this energy price crisis. While PPAs are useful they are not the panacea to solve energy price inflation. It is also innovative that the EIB will be brought in to under write the costs of some PPAs, and that is something we can support. However, Eurometaux would like to see much more done to ensure that meaningful support can be delivered to the opex costs of industry until energy prices return to pre-2022 levels.

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**About Eurometaux:** Eurometaux is the voice of non-ferrous metals producers and recyclers in Europe. We are an umbrella association representing the interests of the combined non-ferrous metals industry towards EU policy makers. 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.

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