

EU Steel Action Plan now! Steel industry and steel workers unite to demand urgent action to restore the sector's competitiveness and save thousands of jobs before it is too late.

Brussels, 12 November 2024 - Ahead of Commissioner-Designate Séjourné's hearing in the European Parliament, European steel social partners, supported by cross-party MEPs, jointly call for an EU Steel Action Plan to restore steel's competitiveness, and save its green transition as well as steelworkers' jobs across Europe.

With political transitions both in Europe and the US, the European steel social partners increase their calls for EU action to ensure that the European steel sector can compete on a tough global market while transitioning to green steel production and keeping thousands of quality jobs in Europe.

With global overcapacity at a record high and energy and raw material prices at uncompetitive levels, the European steel sector is in crisis and over **300,000 direct jobs** and **2.3 million indirect jobs** are at risk. This is why European steel social partners are calling for urgent EU action to safeguard the sector, its decarbonisation investments and thousands of jobs.

[IndustriAll Europe](#) and the European Steel Association ([EUROFER](#)) have produced a [joint set of demands](#) for the European Commission and EU Member States which has received cross-party support.

Today, MEPs will quiz the Commissioner-Designate Stéphane Séjourné, who has been tasked in his Mission Letter from Commission President von der Leyen to come forward with **an EU Steel and Basic Metals Action Plan**. The European social partners insist that this plan has teeth and is published within the first 100 days of the new Commission. There is no time to lose.

Judith Kirton-Darling, IndustriAll Europe's General Secretary, said:

“The European steel sector is in crisis and every day we are dealing with production cuts, mothballing, closures and bankruptcies of steel sites across Europe. Steel jobs are highly skilled and decent jobs, and we must protect them. We completely oppose European steel sites closing only for cheap and dirty steel to be dumped on the open EU market with no respect to the environment or social standards. Decarbonisation must not lead to deindustrialisation and we need the EU to ensure a level playing field and a sustainable future for European steel workers. Steel needs Europe and Europe needs steel.”

Axel Eggert, Director General of the European Steel Association (EUROFER) added:

“Steel is the backbone of manufacturing and vital for cleantech value chains, from renewables to electric vehicles. What is at stake is more than just the steel industry, it's Europe's prosperity and resilience. Billions of our investments in decarbonisation are at risk, while we have to bear energy costs that are 2-3 times higher than those of our main competitors in the US and China. Now more than ever, we need an EU Steel Action Plan, including with robust measures from trade to energy and green lead markets to ensure European steel's viability. Following the elections in the US, the European social partners call on the EU and the US to continue working together to jointly tackle global challenges such as third country driven, massive steel overcapacity and unfair trade practices that harm both sides.”

IndustriAll Europe and EUROFER call on the European Commission and Member States to:

- Take action so that **EU trade policy** ensures industrial resilience including: strengthen and ensure an assertive enforcement of the EU trade defence instruments, and a more robust tariffication regime to address the spill-over impact of worsening global steel excess capacity.
- Monitor and introduce measures to ensure that **CBAM works in practice** and that there is no circumvention or resource shuffling.
- Adopt measures that transfer the cost-efficient benefits of **renewable and low-carbon electricity** to consumers.
- Introduce a policy to **create lead markets** for green steel made in Europe.
- Increase support for **investment in the transition** to green steel.
- Take action to **secure access to critical raw materials** for steel-making, including steel scrap.
- Support strong **social policy for good industrial jobs** in Europe, including an EU Directive on Just Transition.

Notes for editors

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About IndustriAll Europe

IndustriAll European Trade Union is a federation of independent and democratic trade unions representing manual and non-manual workers in the metal, chemical, energy, mining, textile, clothing and footwear sectors and related industries and activities. We speak for 7 million working men and women united within 200 national trade union affiliates in 39 European countries.

About the European Steel Association (EUROFER)

EUROFER AISBL is located in Brussels and was founded in 1976. It represents the entirety of steel production in the European Union. EUROFER members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federation of Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are associate members. The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83.