



COMITÉ DE LIAISON DES INDUSTRIES DE FERRO-ALLIAGES



Brussels, 4 March 2026

**To: Heads of State and Government of the European Union (European Council)**

**Cc: Energy Ministers and Ministers responsible for Industrial Policy and Competitiveness**

**Subject: Priorities from Energy-Intensive Industries on competitive energy**

Your Excellencies,

High energy prices and rising system costs have already taken a heavy toll on European industries, with unprecedented plant closures and loss of competitiveness experienced in the course of the past few years. Without further action, we risk locking Europe into an expensive, fragile decarbonisation, paying the full cost but without reaping its benefits.

Following the Antwerp Summit 2026 and the informal EUCO meeting in Alden Biesen in February, which have recognised energy policy among the key priorities for European industry, the undersigned sectors call on the European Council to endorse urgent, targeted measures to swiftly protect competitiveness and enable industrial electrification, in particular

- Support a political commitment to bring total industrial electricity costs to 50 EUR/MWh threshold as key performance indicator identified by the Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework (CISAF) across the EU
- Call for a Commission impact assessment of short-term markets by June 2026, to assess inefficiencies and impact on competitiveness of energy-intensive industries
- Shield industry from rising system costs associated with the energy transition
- Improve current state aid rules on the electricity temporary price relief (CISAF), which are too restrictive
- As a matter of priority, require suppliers to supply a predefined share of their publicly subsidised electricity production at ‘production cost’ to specific industries exposed to international competition<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Draghi report: In-depth analysis and recommendations \(Part B\)](#), page 37

- Improve affordability and unlock uptake of industrial Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) through EU-wide risk mitigation instruments
- Finance electrification by mobilising EU funding and improve permit procedures for energy infrastructure projects
- Maintain industrial demand response as “voluntary” and increase transparency on electricity bill cost drivers
- Incentivise system flexibility, promoting the contribution of all renewable and low-carbon energy sources.

We hope that these recommendations will be discussed during the upcoming Council Energy meeting and subsequently reflected in the European Council conclusions on competitiveness, as regards the energy dimension, to be adopted on 19–20 March. Clear political guidance and a credible implementation pathway are indispensable to restore confidence and secure continued investment in Europe’s industrial base.

Yours sincerely,

Jori Ringman, Director General Cepi  
Marco Mensink, Director General Cefic  
Renaud Batier, Director General Cerame-Unie  
Philip Cornille, Secretary General EIGA  
Rodolphe Nicolle, Secretary General EuLa  
Axel Eggert, Director General EUROFER  
Bob Lambrechts, Secretary General Euroalliages  
Mara Caboara, Secretary General EXCA  
James Watson, Director General European Metals  
Rolf Kuby, Director General Euromines  
Liana Gouta, Director General FuelsEurope  
Carlo Pirrone, Secretary General Glass Alliance Europe

Attachment:

Energy Intensive Industries Joint Position Paper on the EU Electrification Action Plan