



**To Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič
European Commission**

**Cc: Commissioner Thierry Breton
Commissioner Kadri Simson
Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra
Paula Pinho, Director DG Energy**

Brussels, 19th December 2023

**Follow-Up on Meeting of 30 November 2023 –
Clean Transition Dialogue on Energy Intensive Industries**

Dear Executive Vice-President Šefčovič,

As the informal alliance of industries in the European Union manufacturing critical foundation products, we would like to thank you for the meeting with you, held in the Berlaymont in Brussels on 30th November 2023. Our follow up with our CEOs and leaders have shown a strong consensus that this was a very welcome, constructive and helpful meeting. We would like to take the opportunity in this letter to set out again our shared messages and also our request to continue this high-level dialogue.

Geopolitical events in the last three years have proven that European Union industrial strength is essential for resilience and security in all forms. As our industries by their nature are energy-intensive, and in competition globally with non-EU producers, even within the EU single market, our joint letter aims to reflect a shared concern of the challenges our industries and member companies have to face, especially in comparison with that for our non-EU competitors.

Our overarching request to you is to ask for your support for a clear and strong EU Industrial Policy, built on globally competitive energy prices. Industrial Policy should become a strategic priority in the EU, in parallel and complementary to the to the EU Green Deal Strategy and EU Climate Policy. It must have equal high-level ranking with other EU strategic objectives, contributing to the agreed EU emission reduction targets and “transforming our economy and society for a fair, green and prosperous future”^[1]. We can see every day that EU’s global competitors have become strong through decades-long industrial development supported by long-standing governmental industrial strategies. We believe that the EU needs to do more to prevent further slippage versus these competitors.

^[1] As stated by the EU Commission in the European Green Deal



We fully acknowledge that we are not starting from zero here. We welcome President Von der Leyen's statement in the State of the Union address: *"... we will hold a series of Clean Transition Dialogues with industry to support every sector in building its business model for the decarbonization in industry"* and also Commissioner Breton's statement presenting the Commission Work Programme: *"... We will keep supporting European Industry throughout this transition"*.

We have worked successfully with DG Grow on this subject for several years and our key contribution has been the 2019 publication of the *"Masterplan for a Competitive Transformation of EU Energy Intensive Industries Enabling a Climate-Neutral Circular Economy by 2050"*, a report by the High-Level Group on Energy Intensive Industries. This document set out in depth three main areas of action:

- I. Creation of Markets for climate-neutral, circular economy products
- II. Developing climate neutral solutions and financing their uptake
- III. Resources and deployment

We still believe that this work provides the basis for Industrial strategy for our industries for the next three decades. We have made progress in some areas but there is still much to do. Whilst many of our companies already have low-carbon projects planned and being built, a strong industrial policy is necessary to bring more policy coherence and consistency, which is something that industry needs to proceed more rapidly with the necessary investments.

As the group of Director-Generals representing these industries, we would like to request that this successful meeting between yourselves and our CEOs and leaders is repeated on a regular basis to facilitate the further development of industrial policy in Europe, and to build confidence in our member companies to make the investments necessary to deliver Europe's energy transition and the Green Deal.

We look forward to our continuing dialogue.

Sincerely,

The Energy Intensive Industries



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Koen Coppenholle
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Director General of Cepi

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