

Joint Statement

EUROFER and EUROMETAL convene to support the European Steel Supply Chain

Brussels, 28 April 2025 - In April 2025, EUROFER and EUROMETAL leaders convened to discuss potential collaboration areas for strengthening messaging and initiatives to support the European steel and steel-using industries. This initial exploratory meeting was prompted by the Steel Dialogue on 4 March 2025, hosted by the European Commission, during which EUROMETAL raised concerns regarding the impact of imported steel derivatives on European distribution, processing, and manufacturing industries.

Both EUROFER and EUROMETAL acknowledged that a robust manufacturing base is essential for strategic autonomy and involves the entire steel supply chain — including both steel production and processing. The Steel and Metals Action Plan represents a strong starting point, where the European Union recognizes industry challenges and importance, but this requires concrete translation into effective regulatory frameworks. Sharing knowledge and perspectives across the value chain will enhance the design and implementation of such policies and measures.

EUROMETAL represents a significant portion of the intermediate steel processing market in Europe — comprising nearly 50% of deliveries in the EU. These processors face substantial challenges to remain competitive and require stronger, more targeted support. A steel industry confronted with a shrinking customer base, particularly in downstream sectors, poses broader risks for the entire European industrial ecosystem, as the same accounts for the European steel customer base that requires a viable steel industry in Europe.

The two associations underscored that the weakening of this vital supply chain puts at risk 13.6 million direct jobs across steel processing, intermediate suppliers, and manufacturing sectors in the EU. The consequences go far beyond economics — this situation threatens a wider European deindustrialization, with the relocation of R&D capacities, loss of innovation hubs, and increased dependence on external markets.

The meeting marked an excellent beginning for further analysis and discussions and will be followed up in due course.

Alexander Julius, President of EUROMETAL, commented:

“The EU steel using and steel making industries are at stake. The focus of European policymakers needs to be expanded to the complete supply and value chain of our industry. Joint

efforts of EUROFER and EUROMETAL will form a solid basis approaching this important topic sustainably.”

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

“Both EUROMETAL and EUROFER have a strong interest in a vibrant European steel value chain at the benefit of the EU's economic resilience and strategic autonomy as well as investment, innovation and quality jobs in Europe. We therefore appeal on EU policymakers to support our joint efforts.”

Notes for editors

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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 full members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom are members. The European Steel Association is recorded in the EU transparency register: 93038071152-83.

About the European steel industry

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €191 billion and directly employs around 303,000 highly-skilled people, producing on average 140 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU Member States provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe. Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy.

About EUROMETAL

EUROMETAL is the European Federation of Steel, Tubes and Metals Distribution & Trade. Founded in 1950 alongside the creation of the European Community for Coal and Steel, EUROMETAL has evolved into a member-oriented service provider.

EU steel distribution & trade account in EU for 3.500 companies, mostly small and medium sized enterprises, providing jobs to 100.000 people in the EU. As a systemic player in the supply chain, steel distribution accounts for 60% of all steel supplies to more than one million end users in EU manufacturing industries and EU construction related sectors. EUROMETAL actively advocates for its members, providing a platform for collaboration, insights, and representation at the European level to ensure the sustainable growth and competitiveness of the steel distribution and trading sectors.