

DECEMBER 2019

**To: Mr Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President, European Green Deal**

**CC: Diederik Samsom, Sarah Nelen,**

Dear Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans,

On behalf of Europe's collective non-ferrous metals industry, we write to congratulate you on your appointment as European Commission Executive Vice President for the European Green Deal, and to request a meeting with our business leaders to discuss how Europe can establish a secure and sustainable supply of raw materials for its climate transition.

Our industry supports the new European Commission's integration of climate, circularity and industrial ambitions. We will be at the heart of efforts to achieve them.

The products our industry makes are essential for nearly all the technologies needed for the European Green Deal such as batteries, electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, and zero-energy buildings. Demand for these products is forecast to soar in parallel to the climate transition.

We represent the full raw materials value chain in Europe for delivering these metals: mining & extraction, smelting & refining, transformation, and recycling.

Although China and other areas of the world have built up a massive industrial advantage in metals production, the European industry stands out due to its leading environmental performance. We have this year released a [2050 climate-neutral blueprint](#) for our sector which concludes that:

- Our sector's overall greenhouse gas emissions would be reduced by 81% vs. 1990 levels in a decarbonised power system (assuming competitively priced carbon-free electricity is available)
- Metals produced in Europe are up to 8 times less carbon intensive than in China
- Half of all metals produced in Europe are already from recycled sources, compared with 18% worldwide

We consider that your European Green Deal is an unmissable opportunity to make sure that climate raw materials do not become Europe's "new oil", supplied only by imports from more polluting countries.

Europe's dependence on imports already reaches 100% for certain rare earth and specialty metals, and our existing industrial base remains under global pressure, notably due to imbalances from Chinese state-subsidisation and overcapacities. In parallel however we are a leading contributor to Europe's circular economy ambition.

Together we have an opportunity to establish Europe's place in the global raw materials race by encouraging sustainable new European mining capacity, investing into Europe's existing primary production base, and building on Europe's global recycling leadership. We believe that sustainable raw materials should be central in your EU Green Deal.

A delegation of CEO/board-level leaders from Europe's leading metals mining, smelting, and recycling companies would like to meet with you to discuss how the European Green Deal can achieve this objective, within the EU's integrated climate-neutrality, circularity and zero-pollution ambitions.

If your office could provide a small range of potential dates for holding this meeting, then we can ensure that a quorum of our industry leaders are available for that solutions-focussed discussion.



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Yours sincerely



Eurometaux



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European Association of Metals



**EUROPEAN ALUMINIUM**



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Copper Alliance



**ila**  
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**international zinc association**



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