

A sustainable Glass Industry for Europe

Five years to shape a pathway to a competitive decarbonised glass industry

Modern life is not possible without glass!

Glass is all around us in numerous products that we use every day, very often without noticing it, from bottles and jars to windows and glazing, domestic ware, glass fibre in lightweight composite materials, etc. Glass products are essential for many applications like energy efficient and comfortable living and working spaces, sustainable mobility, but also for infrastructure, digitalization, medical and pharmaceutical devices, renewables, electronics and appliances, jewelry, perfumery and other luxury goods, etc.

Europe is the birthplace of the glass industry and today it is still a world leader in glass manufacturing, excellence and innovations. Europe's glass industry has engaged in massive transformations to reduce its CO₂ emissions and environmental impacts yet it faces many challenges in its transition journey.

The glass industry seeks to intensify its efforts thanks to enabling policies that cater for industrial decarbonization and competitiveness. **In the next five-years, many EU policies will be decisive to shape a pathway toward a competitive decarbonized glass industry.**

40 million tonnes of glass produced annually

500 glass manufacturing installations in **25** EU countries

500,000 jobs across the value chain



'Glass: the hidden gem of a carbon neutral future' says the scientific revue Nature
Discover why: www.glassallianceeurope.eu

A Clean Industrial Deal fit for Glass

Over the last years, the glass industry has trialed numerous new production technologies and invested massively in new manufacturing processes to reduce its CO₂ emissions.

To accelerate the speed of roll-out of these new low-carbon technologies and ensure **the EU industry remains competitive**, a Clean Industrial Deal must address the following.

- Efforts to supply **affordable and continuous low-carbon energy sources** must be maintained. Glass furnaces function 24 hours 7 days a week for up to 20 years hence the importance of availability of continuous flow of energy.
- Investments in **energy grids and infrastructures** must be massively scaled up throughout Europe. Current energy infrastructure, both for electricity or hydrogen, simply cannot deliver enough energy to power many glass furnaces across Europe.
- **De-risking investments in innovative glass manufacturing projects** is essential. More EU funds should be allocated to the glass sectors to support novel manufacturing investments and mitigate rising operational costs.
- Incentives to support the **market uptake of lower-carbon and European-made glass products** are needed. Policies that favor local content in key sectors should be implemented to strengthen the resilience of European supply chains and reduce dependencies on external competitors.
- An eventual extension of the **Carbon Market Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** to glass sectors should only proceed after a thorough assessment of the CBAM impacts on competitiveness and in concertation with each glass sectors.
- The **EU Emissions Trading System (ETS)** needs to be reformed to avoid a premature shortfall of CO₂ allowances on the market. The criteria for sectors eligible to indirect cost compensation must be reformed to support the glass industry's electrification efforts.
- **Trade defence measures** should be timely introduced and enforced when European glass products face unfair competition. Effective customs controls on imports should be implemented to prevent circumventions.

Many other policy priorities for each glass sector

Due to the diversity in glass products, many other legislations will be central to the future of the glass industry .

- Revision to the REACH regulation, which provides a definition of the glass substance.
- The Industrial Emissions Directive, which governs permitting and manufacturing conditions.
- Waste policy and circularity: Glass recycling is critical but effective recycling depends on products.
- The Packaging and packaging waste regulation, for the container glass sector.
- Building, construction and automotive policy for the glazing sector.
- Food contact legislation, which applies to articles in contact with food.