

Press Release

Brussels, 26 February 2025. 400 business leaders send urgent call to Heads of State to implement the Clean Industrial Deal following high-level meeting with Commission Presidency.

One year after the launch of the Antwerp Declaration, 400 business leaders have reunited in Antwerp to discuss the just published Clean Industrial Deal with Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen. Ahead of the European Council meeting in March, industry is now calling on EU Heads of State to take urgent action across all EU Member States without any delay.

Today, the **Chair of Glass for Europe** joined the participating business leaders, industry representatives and workers in Antwerp to discuss the Clean Industrial Deal with Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

At a high-level roundtable with Commissioner Wopke Hoekstra, **Davide Cappellino** delivered a stark reality check: decarbonisation technologies will cost more than current manufacturing processes. He urged policymakers to react and provide certainty that the competitiveness of the glass industry will be safeguarded as the transition accelerates. One way of doing this would be a comprehensive review of the EU's ETS scheme to ensure its viability beyond 2030.

Bertrand Cazes, who attended the event on behalf of Glass Alliance Europe, echoed the importance of acting swiftly and with force on the delivery of the Clean Industrial Deal.

Glass Alliance Europe calls on all new EU initiatives to be evaluated against the following criteria: Do they keep Europe safe and independent, reduce energy prices, ease the administrative burden on companies, attract investments to Europe, create markets for sustainable products, and safeguard quality jobs in Europe? If the answer to any of these questions is no, EU policymakers should reconsider and revise the proposal accordingly.

The message is clear: **DELIVER THE DEAL** as fast as possible! The challenges are well-known: the **Glass industry** is grappling with declining demand, stalled investments, reduced capacity, and EU gas prices significantly higher than global competitors.

These challenges are not new - but the urgency to address them has never been greater.

The time to act is now!