

To the Minister for the Environment of
Austria

Brussels, 3 December 2020

Dear Minister Gewessler,

The European steel industry, with its 330 000 direct and 2.27 million indirect employees, plays a central role in the transition of the EU to becoming a low-carbon economy. However, the success of this endeavour greatly depends on our industry's ability to de-carbonise while being locally and globally competitive.

Widely recognised as being one of the most-hard-to-abate industries – but also the most advanced among energy intensive industries in terms of CO₂-low projects – the steel sector has made clear its ambition to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 2030 by 30% compared to 2018 (which equates to 55% compared to 1990) and towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Environment Council meeting on 17 December provides an opportunity to focus on this strategic industry and provide a pathway to decarbonisation with concrete, effective action. The German Steel Action Concept adopted by their Government and prepared by the German Ministry for the Economy, the employers and unions of the German steel industry, is an excellent example as to how this could be conducted at EU level.

EUROFER and industriAll Europe, as social partners, therefore recommend and request that this German government concept be presented at the Environment Council on 17 December, and for the Council with its Member States to consider a similar process with the steel industry at an EU level.

An EU-wide steel action plan and dedicated support from the Recovery Plan and other EU and national schemes is urgently needed, especially given the dramatic effect the ongoing Covid-19 health crisis has had on our industry and workers. We believe that with a successful, competitive decarbonisation of the European steel industry we can make a difference in the world and pave the way for industrial decarbonisation, as well as building newly strengthened industrial eco-systems and reinforced circularity in Europe and the world.

We attach, for your information, both the German *Steel Action Concept*, the EU steel industry's executive summary for a *Green Deal on Steel* as well as industriAll Europe's *European steel action plan*.

We remain at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Yours faithfully,



Axel Eggert, Director General
EUROFER
The European Steel Association



Luc Triangle, General Secretary
industriAll Europe
European Trade Union