Glass Makers and Stakeholders Mark 2022 UN International Year of Glass

Brussels, 18 November 2022: The United Nations designated 2022 as the International Year of glass, the first time a man-made material was chosen for worldwide attention. On 16 November, Glass Alliance Europe marked the occasion with an event gathering policy makers and stakeholders at the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union in Brussels.

Glass is key-enabler to build resilience in our economies, to meet the EU Green Deal objectives and to help Europe develop full circularity.

Opening the event, **Maive RUTE**, Deputy Director-General, DG GROW, European Commission said: "*Glass can play an important role as a material, helping to enable our green and digital transition and supporting our society in achieving long-term sustainability and prosperity. The glass industry has a long and rooted tradition in Europe, and we must work to ensure that it is able to continue operating in our continent at competitive conditions.*"

While **Barbara SCHRETTER,** Director of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union added that "*Europe is home to many glass producers who are helping to turn Europe into a prosperous and sustainable economy and society*".

Glass retains its properties no matter how many times it is recycled. Speaking on how glass can enable a world without waste, **Aurel CIOBANU-DORDEA,** Director of Circular Economy, DG ENVI, European Commission welcomed *"the glass industry efforts to deliver on the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan to ensure that waste is prevented and the resources used are kept in the EU economy for as long as possible."*

Glass plays a key role as a high-tech material vital to the energy performance, safety, security and comfort of our homes, offices, buildings and cars and is essential to make Europe fit for sustainable living. **Anne-Katharina WEIDENBACH**, Energy Efficiency expert at the Cabinet of Commissioner Simson (DG Energy), was among the panellists to discuss how glass will contribute to sustainable living and will be crucial to green energy production in Europe.

The glass industry is committed to ensuring that greenhouse gas emissions from glass production drop substantially in the next decades. **MEP Monika HOHLMEIER** along with UNIDO's Managing Director **Gunther BEGER** highlighted the challenges of decarbonisation and the importance of sharing best practices emerging from the glass industry's roadmaps towards a climate neutral Europe.

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About glass

The glass industry is a key-enabler of sustainable growth and prosperity in Europe. It creates low-carbon sustainable buildings, it produces and stores renewable energy, it enables clean mobility and low-carbon transport. It makes healthy and sustainable packaging, it's the material of choice for medical applications and Europe's digitalisation future.

About the UN International Year of Glass

2022 has been designated the United Nations International Year of Glass (IYOG) (link), recognising the essential role of glass products to achieving the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

About Glass Alliance Europe

Glass Alliance Europe is the European Alliance of Glass Industries. It is composed of 19 national glass associations and of the main sectors of the glass industries: container glass, flat glass, special glass, domestic glass and continuous filament glass fibres. Throughout Europe, the glass industry employs around 200.000 people.

Glass industries invest in research, develop and manufacture glass products fit for a sustainable, resource-efficient and low-carbon society such as energy-efficient windows, fully recyclable bottles and jars, weight-lightening continuous glass fibres, glass for photovoltaic modules, and enabling the digital economy.