## POSITION PAPER



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## A GREEN DEAL INDUSTRIAL PLAN

The local production of net-zero technologies requires to bolster the resilience of entire European value chains

Glass Fibre Europe welcomes the fact that the European Commission acknowledges, with the release of the Green Deal Industrial Plan, the importance of local manufacturing of key technologies in Europe to meet the Net-Zero objective by 2050. The European glass fibre industry has the ambition to become climate neutral by 2050 while continuing to manufacture and develop innovative products and solutions, enabling the transition in key sectors of the economy. Glass Fibre Europe calls on the European Commission in future acts to adopt an approach bolstering the resilience of industries at each stage of strategic value chains. This is paramount to support the development of net-zero technologies and prevent exposing Europe to new dependencies vis-à-vis third countries and in particular Chinese state-owned companies.

The demand for glass fibre has been growing over last decades with the constant development of new products and applications by the industry, and the increase in demand generated by sustainability and climate objectives. The glass fibre's versatility and unique properties enable the production of strong, light and durable composite material solutions for wind energy, electric and electronic equipment, and sustainable solutions in a wide range of applications, such as transport and construction. Thanks to the presence of a local glass fibre industry, Europe glass-based lightweight value chains have been able to research, develop and deploy new solutions that reduce the environmental footprint of many sectors of critical importance for the attainment of the EU's Green Deal and REPowerEU objectives.

Paradoxically, despite a perfect alignment between the European glass fibre industry and the European Union's aspiration and objectives, the current market situation in Europe is not sustainable for the industry. The European market is under constant pressure from heavily subsidised and dumped imports from Chinese state-owned companies. Coupled with the instability and high energy prices, there is today no business case supporting the growth and investment of glass fibre production in Europe.

Therefore, it is crucial that the European Commission puts in place a European economic and trade policy framework ensuring fair competition and level-playing field with non-European actors, and supporting the industry competitiveness.

The European glass fibre industry calls on the European authorities to consider the following measures:

- Continue the trade defence measures on subsidised and dumped imports from China, and introduce additional measures to address the unprecedented flows on the European market.
- Adopt policies that favour local content to encourage the growth for demand for EU production and bolster EU supply chain resilience.
- Take decisive actions to curb the price of energy to relieve the glass fibre industry and its value chains.
- Review the "EU ETS indirect state aid guidelines" and enlarge the list of activities eligible for indirect costs compensation to include the production of all the glass fibre products.

About Glass Fibre Europe - EU Transparency Register n°635608817518-09.

Glass Fibre Europe, founded in 1987, is the voice of the European continuous filament glass fibre industry. It is composed of 7 companies: 3B the fibreglass company, FYSOL SAS, Johns Manville, Lanxess, Nippon Electric Glass, Owens Corning and Saint-Gobain Vetrotex. Glass Fibre Europe represents over 90% of the continuous filament glass fibre production in Europe.

## **Glass Fibre Europe**