

EUROPEAN STEEL

A manifesto: 2019-2024



With the EU elections in 2019, Europe will be setting new priorities for the future. As an industry at the heart of the EU economy, the European steel industry is saying to policy makers: we need to innovate, trade, sustain and upskill to ensure a prosperous future for Europe and its citizens.

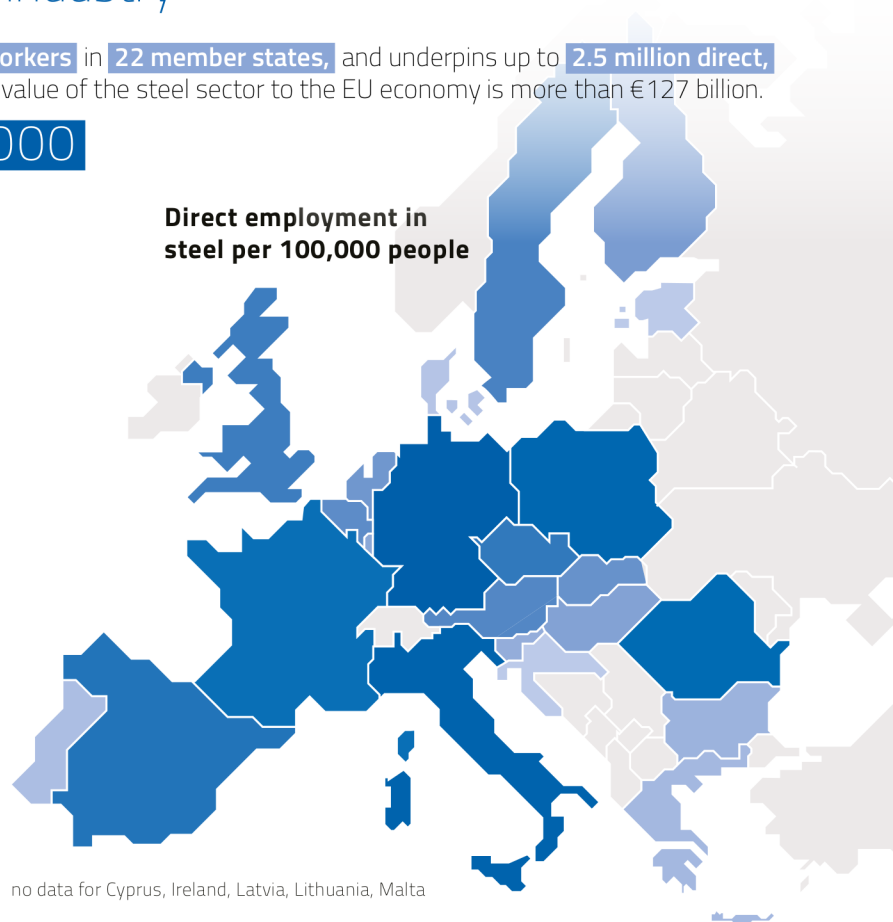
The footprint of the EU steel industry

The steel industry directly employs around **330,000 workers** in **22 member states**, and underpins up to **2.5 million direct, indirect and induced jobs** overall. The total economic value of the steel sector to the EU economy is more than €127 billion.

Number of directly employed persons **330,000**

1	Germany	84,200
2	Italy	33,400
3	Poland	24,100
4	Romania	22,500
5	France	21,900
6	Spain	17,400
7	Czech Republic	17,800
8	United Kingdom	15,800
9	Sweden	15,700
10	Austria	15,700
11	Belgium	11,300
12	Slovakia	10,700
13	Netherlands	9,500
14	Finland	8,100
15	Hungary	5,700
16	Luxembourg	4,300
17	Slovenia	4,200
18	Bulgaria	4,100
19	Greece	1,400
20	Portugal	1,000
21	Denmark	400
22	Croatia	190
23	Estonia	9

Direct employment in steel per 100,000 people



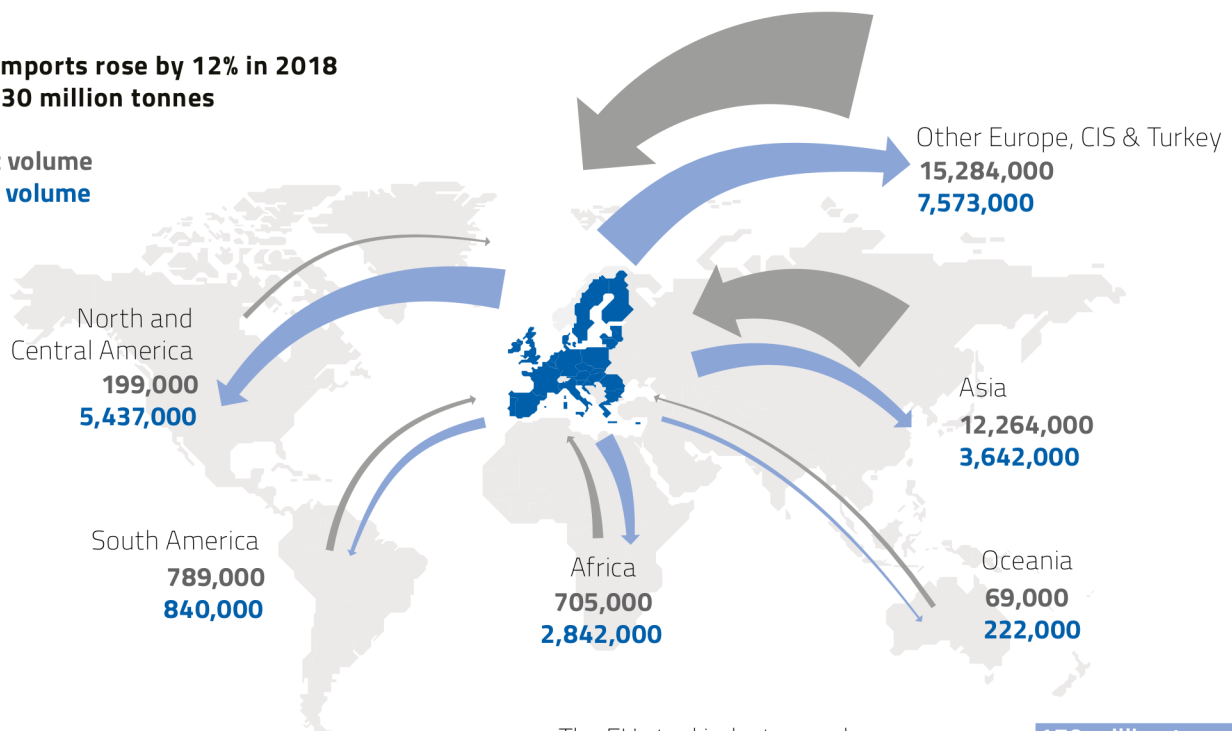
no data for Cyprus, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta

An intensively traded product

Steel is an **intensively traded product**, with the EU market open to imports from all over the world – and exporting high quality steels to global trade partners

EU steel imports rose by 12% in 2018 to nearly 30 million tonnes

- ➔ Import volume
- ➔ Export volume



The EU steel industry produces on average **170 million tonnes** of steel per year – and is the second largest producer in the world.

Innovate

towards a low-carbon future

To promote innovation, EU policymakers should:



1.

Put steel at the heart of the EU's research agenda so that the sector can fully exploit its **potential to innovate and become carbon-lean**, while creating value in Europe for European citizens. We need support for a **European Partnership** on Steel in the EU's research agenda (eg Horizon Europe).

Develop an industrial strategy with a set of measures that allows the EU steel industry to **to remain competitive while staying on course to become a low-CO₂ sector**. Products made in the EU, imported and sold on the EU market should face comparable carbon cost constraints. Such **WTO-compliant measures need to be adopted** as soon as possible.

2.



3.

Update competition policy and State Aid rules for the modern age, **enabling an innovative, cooperative, competitive, climate-friendly, circular EU industry**.

Our ambition:

We want to be the cleanest, most advanced steel industry in the world. We have already halved energy usage and CO₂ emissions since the 1960s while developing thousands of innovative grades of steel that make modern society possible. We are part of the future of Europe and we are doing our part to help the EU meet its Paris Agreement climate change commitments: with the right regulatory framework we can achieve CO₂ cuts of up to 80% or more by 2050 whilst creating new markets for steel and steel production's by-products in an environmentally-friendly, circular economy.

Trade

to make EU industry stronger and more competitive

To secure free and fair international trade, EU policymakers should:



1.

Tackle **third country trade barriers** and other global market distortions **more vigorously**. Support strengthening and reform of the WTO to ensure that free and fair trade is secured.



2.

Help remove third-countries' distortionary economic practices. **Global overcapacity in steel is fuelled by government subsidies** and competition-distorting support programmes and measures. **These must be put to an end.**



3.

Screen foreign investment into Europe to make sure that it meets at least the **same requirements** as those that apply to domestic investors. Foreign state-controlled and **subsidised companies must not be allowed to carry out investments** in the EU that European players would not be able or permitted to make.

Our ambition:

We need global trade to be free, fair and rules-based. Steel plays a critical role in the value chains that make the sophisticated EU economy possible, so the European steel sector – and the other synergistic industries related to it – need EU trade policy to be reactive and robust to nurture our competitiveness on the international trade landscape. We support reform and strengthening of the WTO to make it more formidable in the face of trade and economic distortions.

Sustain

a sector at the heart of the EU economy

To foster a sustainable European steel industry, EU policymakers should:

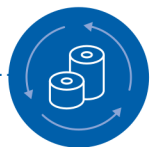


1.

Support steel made in the EU as a **sustainable and permanent material**, recognising that the EU steel industry is a **sustainable producer** of an endlessly recyclable resource, made for European citizens.

Embrace lifecycle methodologies which factor in the full benefits of competing materials in different applications. Support steel made in the EU as a **sustainable and permanent material**, recognising that the EU steel industry is a sustainable producer of an endlessly recyclable resource. This also means ensuring access to **sustainable finance** – factoring in technological development and steel's applications.

2.



3.

Minimise the problems caused by **overlapping or inconsistent EU rules** where they impact steel and its by-products. One-size-fits-all approaches to regulation are not always effective.

Our ambition:

We are working to make the European steel industry ever more sustainable. Steel has many practical advantages as a material, including being lightweight, versatile, durable and 100% recyclable – but the steel sector and its downstream industries need a reliable framework for social, financial, economic and environmental sustainability. Reinforcing the sustainability of steel strengthens all related EU industries.

Upskill

to ensure European workers are as highly skilled as possible

To ensure EU citizens are economically active and highly skilled, EU policymakers should:



1.

Support efforts by the steel industry to upgrade their human resources by supporting pan-national, **European-level actions for a skills strategy** covering key sectors, such as steel, its value chains and synergistic industries.



2.

Deploy this proactive, future-oriented European steel skills strategy. **Technological development to progress alongside human requirements.** This progress should assess the impact on organisations, workers and the environment of change in the workplace. This needs the **close cooperation** of all relevant actors, such as companies, academia, vocational and educational training institutions, social partners and policy makers.



3.

Establish a common European skills agenda, created in **close cooperation with the EU's main industrial and steel producing countries.**

Our ambition:

Europe's industry needs to have access to an even more highly skilled workforce. We will continue to contribute to raising the skill levels of our employees. Physical raw materials are not the only resources needed to make steel: we also need human capital of the highest quality. Keeping the EU workforce as highly-trained as possible is one of the most pressing challenges to the future competitiveness of European industry – and succeeding needs the right policy mix.

“European steel is one of the EU’s most essential strategic industrial assets, producing an indispensable product. We call on policy makers to help us innovate, trade, be sustainable and upskill our workforce. Only by working together with government and related sectors can we make sure that EU steel continues to contribute to a prosperous future for the EU and its citizens.”

Geert Van Poelvoorde, President, European Steel Association (EUROFER)

About the European Steel Association (EUROFER)

The European Steel Association (EUROFER) AISBL is an international not-for-profit organisation under Belgian law, based in Brussels. EUROFER members are steel companies and national steel federations throughout the EU. The major steel companies and national steel federations in Switzerland and Turkey are associate members.

About the European steel industry

The European steel industry is a world leader in innovation and environmental sustainability. It has a turnover of around €170 billion and directly employs around 330,000 highly-skilled people, producing nearly 170 million tonnes of steel per year. More than 500 steel production sites across 22 EU member states provide direct and indirect employment to millions more European citizens. Closely integrated with Europe's manufacturing and construction industries, steel is the backbone for development, growth and employment in Europe. Steel is the most versatile industrial material in the world. The thousands of different grades and types of steel developed by the industry make the modern world possible. Steel is 100% recyclable and therefore is a fundamental part of the circular economy. As a basic engineering material, steel is also an essential factor in the development and deployment of innovative, CO₂-mitigating technologies, improving resource efficiency and fostering sustainable development in Europe.

EUROFER
The European Steel Association

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