



## **The Industrial Accelerator Act must not be Further Delayed!**

**Brussels, 25 February 2026.** Europe cannot speak about strategic autonomy while allowing its industrial base to erode.

Metals and energy-intensive industries are not optional sectors — they are the foundation of Europe's defence capabilities, infrastructure, manufacturing and technological leadership. If production leaves Europe, we become dependent on others for the materials that power our economy and secure our sovereignty.

The European metal industry is a vital element in our future plans to decarbonise, digitalise and defend our freedoms. The Industrial Accelerator Act must recognise the strategic value of metals made in Europe.

We strongly support Commissioner Stéphane Séjourné in his efforts to reinforce Europe's industrial capacity through a robust Industrial Accelerator Act, which must have metals at its heart. At a time when major global powers are aggressively backing their domestic industries, Europe must be equally clear about its priorities and act fast and decisively, not ponder for weeks, months, years.

Energy costs remain structurally higher than in competing regions. Trade pressures are increasing. Regulatory and carbon costs are discouraging investment. In this environment, delaying the Industrial Accelerator Act sends the wrong message to industry and to markets. Excluding metals from the strategic sectors sends an even worse message to investors about Europe's intent in this sector.

The principle should be straightforward: European public funding must, within reasonable limits, prioritise metal production capacity located in Europe. This is not protectionism — it is economic security. Strategic autonomy begins with production. If we lose our metals and other foundational industries, we lose leverage, resilience and control over our own future.

Europe must decide: will we produce metals in Europe, or will we depend on others for our future economic security? The Industrial Accelerator Act is a test of that choice.

### **Evangelos Mytilineos**

Executive Chairman of Metlen Energy & Metals

President of European Metals