

METALS ACADEMY 6



DRAFT PROGRAM

Metals & Europe in a complex world

*Reading the change. Navigating uncertainty.
Understanding the system.*

Day and theme	Key question	Focus
Tuesday 18 May See the system	What must we understand about metals and the EU before the current debates make sense?	Metals fundamentals, applications and the points where EU policy enters the value chain.
Wednesday 19 May See the world	When does dependence become vulnerability, and who defines criticality?	Supply origin and concentration, geopolitical leverage, economic security and trade.
Thursday 20 May See the tensions	How and where do climate, competitiveness, security and environmental goals reinforce or obstruct each other?	Energy, industrial economics, permitting, substance and product legislation, circularity and implementation.
Thursday 20 May (ctd) Act in the system	How do we reach out and explain a credible outcome when interests conflict?	EU influence, negotiation, trust and communication under shifting societal priorities.
Friday 21 May Act in the system (ctd)	How do we reach out and explain a credible outcome when interests conflict?	EU influence, negotiation, trust and communication under shifting societal priorities.

From Tuesday 18 May 2027 (from 12.00)

To Friday 21 May 2027 (to 14:00)

Grande Abbaye de La Ramée, Jodoigne, Belgium

TUESDAY 18 MAY 2027

Arrival 12:00 – Lunch 12:30-13:30

SEE THE SYSTEM		
What do I need to understand about metals and Europe before the current debates make sense?		
Timing	Topic	Key learning goal
13:30-14:00	Opening and participants perspective	Identify where participants sit in the metals system and which assumptions about Europe they want to test
14:00-15:00	From ore to metal to recycling	Understand processing, co-products, material properties and physical limits to recycling
15:00-15:30	Why applications matter	Connect metal properties to uses such as grids, electronics, prosthetics and defence
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break	
16:00-17:00	Build the metals system: serious play in practice	Map a value chain on a printed outline, then explain what changes when one link is disrupted
17:00-17:30	Where the EU enters the system	Locate trade, climate, chemicals and product rules along the physical chain
17:30-19:00	Free Time	
19:00-19:30	What our maps miss?	Correct misconceptions and identify the information needed before judging a policy
19:30-21:00	Apéritif & Dinner	
21:00	Game	

WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2027

SEE THE WORLD When does dependence become strategic vulnerability, and who gets to decide what is critical?		
Timing	Topic	Key learning goal
09:00-09:45	The changing geography of metals	Distinguish supply concentration, dependency and the time needed to develop alternatives.
09:45-10:30	Critical according to whom	Explain why the same metal is critical to different users and jurisdictions
10:30-11:00	Coffee break	
11:00-11:45	Europe's economic security choices	Assess what diversification and partnerships can achieve, and what they cost
11:45-12:30	The outside view	Test EU assumptions against non-EU perspectives and participants' experience
12:30-14:00	Lunch	
14:00-14:45	Trade protection	Match trade-defence tools and export restrictions to the problems they address
14:45-16:15	The metals shock	Choose a supply response and test how incentives and trust affect cooperation
16:15-16:45	Coffee break	
16:45-17:45	Keynote speaker from the European Investment Bank	
18:00-19:30	Free time/Outside activity (non-mandatory)	
19:30	Apéritif & Dinner	

THURSDAY 20 MAY 2027

SEE THE TENSIONS

Under what conditions can Europe decarbonise, remain competitive and improve resilience whilst maintaining environmental and social standards?

Timing	Topic	Key learning goal
09:00-09:45	What shapes European production?	Understand how energy, capital, imports and regulation affect industrial viability
09:45-10:30	Energy and decarbonisation	Identify what a plant needs to adopt a lower-carbon process and what incentives can achieve
10:30-11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:00-11:30	Circularity under physical constraints	Test the availability, quality and timing of secondary material before assuming it can close a gap
11:30-12:00	Environment & Social Standards	Why & where sustainability matters
12:00-12:30	Panel Discussion	
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00-14:45	From objective to implementation	Trace one policy objective to practical compliance at the factory gate
14:45-16:15	The EU policy stress test	Identify unintended effects and implementation problems; propose one amendment
16:15-16:45	<i>Coffee break</i>	

THURSDAY 20 MAY 2027 (ctd)

ACT IN THE SYSTEM

How do you reach out and explain a defensible outcome when actors have different interests and evidence is incomplete?

16:45-17:15	How EU influence in practice	Recognise authority, timing, coalitions and institutional incentives
17:15-18:00	What makes advocacy credible	Distinguish evidence from assertion and identify misleading simplification
18:00-19:30	<i>Free time</i>	
19:30	<i>Apéritif & Dinner</i>	

FRIDAY 21 MAY 2027

ACT IN THE SYSTEM (ctd)

How do you reach out and explain a defensible outcome when actors have different interests and evidence is incomplete?

Timing	Topic	Key learning goal
09:00-10:30	The Brussels Room	Prepare a position, negotiate under constraints and explain agreement or deadlock
10:30-10:50	<i>Coffee break</i>	
10:50-11:50	Tell the same truth to different audiences	Adapt a briefing for a board, policymaker or journalist while preserving facts and uncertainty
11:50-12:20	A postcard to Monday	Record one changed assumption and one action to apply at work.
12:20-12:30	<i>Closing</i>	
12:30-14:00	<i>Lunch and departure</i>	