

## PRESS RELEASE

### European Panel Federation signs the Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal

Brussels, Friday 23 February 2024

The European Panel Federation (EPF) has signed the [Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal](#). EPF joins 72 leading companies and 34 industry associations representing more than 7.8 million jobs in calling for the Industrial Deal to be put the core of the new European Strategic Agenda for 2024-2029. A fulfillment of the Antwerp Declaration would allow industry to take its position as a key driver towards a resilient, competitive, and sustainable Europe, that works for all.



### The Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal

European Industry Summit:  
A business case for Europe  
20 February 2024, Antwerp

108  
signatures

18  
sectors

(last updated on 21 February 2024)

#### EUROPE NEEDS

We need to keep industry in Europe because the industry will deliver the climate solutions Europe needs.

*Photo credit: Thomas Hansenne*

A key highlight of this Declaration is its ambition to reindustrialise Europe, positioning Europe as a global leader in sustainable and innovative industry. This message sheds light on the vital role of industry as a driving force for economic growth and job creation, and echoes EPF's commitments and ambitions as a Role Model Industry. With an annual turnover of about €25 billion and the creation of over 100,000 jobs directly in Europe, our industry is an integral and innovative part of the EU's bio and circular economies.

The Antwerp Declaration outlines 10 actionable measures, including a streamlining of legislation, and calls for initiatives to position Europe as a global leader in boosting demand for net zero, low carbon and circular products, fostering raw material self-sufficiency, and making the innovation framework smarter.

Signatories represent a broad spectrum of industries from sectors such as chemicals, pharmaceuticals, paper, steel, mining, aluminium, glass, zinc, metals, textiles, ceramics, biotech and now wood too. The Declaration was presented to European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen and to Belgian Prime Minister, Alexander De Croo at the European Industry Summit held in Antwerp on 20 February.

As EPF Chairman Martin Brettenthaler stresses: 'Embracing the Antwerp Declaration, we advocate for placing the European Industrial Deal at the forefront of Europe's agenda, aligning with EPF's objectives and strategic directions. By prioritising reindustrialisation, especially with natural, innovative sustainable products such as wood-based panels, we can play a vital role in delivering the European Green Deal'.

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