



EUCLUSTERS TALKS ★

The Industrial Accelerator Act:

Speeding Up Strategic Projects

11 March 2026

08:30-9:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform
2. Industrial Accelerator Act
Immavera Sardone, Policy Officer, DG GROW, European Commission
3. Panel debate
Fabrizio Guarrasi, Innovation Manager, Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster (LE2C)
Hugo Durand, Territorial Relations Officer, EDF; CleanTech Vallée
Tobias Lechtenfeld, Executive Director, Tech for Net Zero
4. Funding opportunities
Nina Hoppmann, Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform

Housekeeping rules

Karen Clements, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch a poll. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions**, and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Public consultation on the draft for a new General Block Exemption Regulation

The European Commission has launched a **public consultation** on the draft of **a simpler and more streamlined General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER)**. The new version will align the GBER with current social, market and technological conditions.

The Commission invites Member States and all other interested parties to [comment on the draft by 23 April 2026](#).

The GBER defines specific categories of State aid as compatible with EU rules, if they fulfil certain conditions, and exempts them from prior notification to and approval by the Commission. This allows Member States to quickly provide aid if conditions limiting the distortion of competition in the Single Market are met.

The new GBER will involve **less administrative burden** and will be easier to interpret and apply. It will be **adapted to recent social, market and technology developments** and will allow **greater flexibility** in the design of aid measures.

EU-Ukraine Business Summit

On **22-23 April 2026**, European Business Summits and the European Commission will host the third edition of the **EU-Ukraine Business Summit** together with the governments of Ukraine and Poland. The Summit brings together policymakers, businesses and financial institutions in Brussels for two days of high-level discussions, round tables, B2B matchmaking, sectoral pitching sessions and interactive workshops.

Key topics will include supporting Ukraine's defence and European strategic industries, critical raw materials, leveraging public-private partnerships and public tenders for EU investors, business environment reforms and investment support instruments, support for SMEs, investments into the energy sector, private equity, cross-border logistics and more.

Register here: [EU-Ukraine Business Summit](#)

Participants are also invited to register for the [B2B matchmaking](#), where EU and Ukrainian businesses and other relevant stakeholders can schedule physical meetings during the Summit, but also online.



**EU-UKRAINE
BUSINESS
SUMMIT**

ON THE ROAD TO URC2026

Meet the Euroclusters

Selected under the call Joint Cluster Initiatives (Euroclusters) for Europe's Recovery, these **16 initiatives** mark an important milestone in advancing the EU's ambition for a greener, more digital and more resilient industrial future.

With a total budget of 42 million EUR, the initiatives bring together clusters, SMEs and research organisations from across Europe to strengthen value chains, accelerate the decarbonisation of industry and the digital transition, and improve businesses competitiveness.

More than 30 million EUR of this amount will be channeled directly to SMEs through open calls organised by the consortia. This support will fund projects that:

- foster innovation and the uptake of advanced technologies,
- build capacity in strategic sectors, and
- drive Europe's transformation towards a sustainable, digital and resilient economy.

[Slides and recording: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 1](#)

[Slides and recording: EU Clusters Talk on Euroclusters in Strand 2](#)



Clusters and Europe's Competitiveness: ECCP Summary Report 2025

A central contribution of the report is its clarification of how clusters can advance the three core priorities of the Competitiveness Compass:

- **Closing the innovation gap** by organising demand-driven collaboration, connecting SMEs with anchor firms and testbeds, and building cross-border technology adoption pipelines, illustrated by meta-cluster models such as Silicon Europe.
- **Decarbonising with competitiveness by enabling collective action**, including shared infrastructure, industrial symbiosis and coordinated roadmaps, supported by place-based approaches such as Net-Zero Acceleration Valleys.
- **Reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security** by supporting value-chain diversification and re-anchoring, accelerating technology substitution, and strengthening ecosystem resilience.

👉 Available in the [ECCP Library](#)



Industrial Accelerator Act

EU Clusters Talk, 11 March 2026

Immavera Sardone, GROW I.1 – Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials

What is the Industrial Accelerator Act and why?

Context: EU *dependent* and production in *decline*



Share of manufacturing in total **GDP has declined from 17.4% to 14.3%** between 2000 and 2024 in the EU



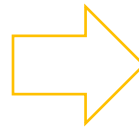
Since 2019, **production volumes** in EUs have **declined by almost 20%**



EU **dependency on China** has increased by a **factor of 4.2 for EVs**, compared to conventional ICE vehicles



Around **50% of batteries** used in the EU are imported from China; **94% of solar PV modules and cells** are sourced from China.



Ambition to increase the share of manufacturing in EU GDP to **20% by 2035**

Strengthen the EU's long-term economic resilience, prosperity and strategic autonomy



Leverage the Single Market to boost demand for European low-carbon products and technologies



Deploy industrial projects at scale by streamlining permits, as well as facilitating the development of industrial clusters



Maximise the added value of foreign investment in the EU



Structure of the IAA

1. Permitting

- Single Digital Access Points through European Business Wallet
- “One project-one submission” for the permit-granting procedure

2. EU lead markets

- Use public procurement and public incentives to boost demand for certain EU industrial products, clean tech and automotive

3. Industrial acceleration areas

- New areas with streamlined, area-wide permits and tacit approval to facilitate clean industrial manufacturing investments

4. Foreign investments (> EUR 100 Mln)

- Over 40% global market share
- min. 50% employment of EU workers
- Conditions on ownership, local content, knowledge and technology transfer, R&D activities

Permitting – overview

Objective	Streamline and gather low-hanging fruits of digitalisation
Sector	Industrial Manufacturing Sector
Measures	<p><i>Permitting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single Access Points, through European Business Wallet• “One project-one submission”: single permit-granting procedure
Objective	Streamline and speed up Ells’ transition
Sector	Energy Intensive Industries
Measures	<p><i>Permitting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alignment with Ells under NZIA: SPOC, 12/18 months timelines• Tacit approval & public interest (RSEA toolbox) to provide speed and certainty to projects.



Industrial Acceleration Areas



Objective	Creation of “go-to” industrial areas with different benefits to attract and facilitate investment
Sector	Strategic sectors (Annex I – EUs, net-zero tech; automotive) & Industrial Manufacturing Sector
Measures	<p><i>Industrial Acceleration areas:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating industrial hubs that attract investment, facilitate decarbonisation, and strengthen supply chain resilience.• Enabling business environment::<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy needs shared with TSOs• Facilitating access to finance• Skills• Mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment, aggregated baseline permit• Tacit approval, public interest (RSEA toolbox) to provide speed and certainty to projects.



Lead markets: Low-carbon and Made in EU

Sectors	Steel, cement, aluminium, net-zero tech and vehicle components	
Public instrument	Public procurement, auctions & support schemes	Financial support for corporate vehicles & CO2 credits for <i>small EVs</i>
Geographical scope	EU + relevant international commitments - Non reciprocity/dependencies/exceptions	EU
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-Carbon Steel • Low-Carbon & MiEU Cement • Low-Carbon & MiEU Aluminium • MiEU Vehicles components <i>and</i> MiEU batteries for EVs • BESS • Solar PV • Wind • Heat pumps • Nuclear • Electrolysers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MiEU Vehicles components <i>and</i> MiEU batteries for EVs



MiEU for net-zero tech

Public procurement

Public support schemes

Auctions

Manufacturing support

Batteries (BESS):

- EIF +1: Final product & *for projects > 1MWh, BMS*
- EIF +3: Final product + BMS + cells + 1 component



Wind:

- EIF +1: 1 component
- EIF +3: 2 components



Nuclear:

- EIF +4: 2 components
- EIF +6: 3 components



Solar PV:

EIF +3: Inverter + cells or equivalent



Heat pumps:

EIF +3: Final product



Electrolysers:

- EIF +1: Final product + stack + 1 component
- EIF +3: Final product + stack + 2 components



Foreign Investment conditions

Applies to:

- Investments **over EUR 100m** and from countries with **> 40%** global production

Sectors covered:

- Batteries
- EVs
- Solar PV
- Extraction, processing and recycling of critical raw materials.

Governance:

- Notification to MS
- COM may take over certain cases (e.g. > 1bn EUR investments)

4 out of 6 conditions to be met:

✓ **High quality jobs:** employment min 50% Union workers

And, 3 out of following 5

✓ **Ownership:** Foreign investors no more 49% ownership;

✓ **Cooperation and control:** Joint venture with one or more EU entities (max 49% foreign);

✓ **Tech transfer:** Agreements about licensing, IP rights, access to know-how, etc.;

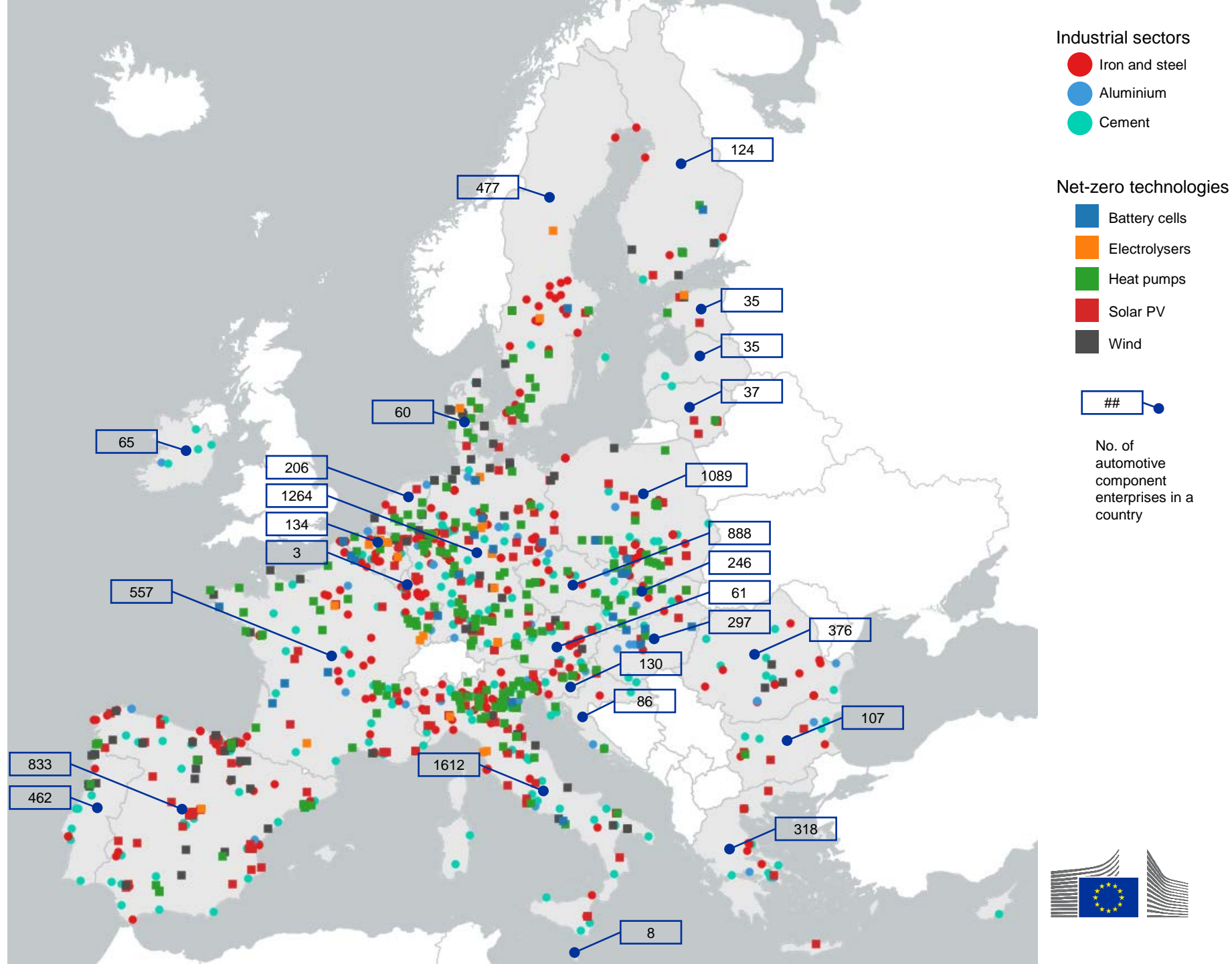
✓ **Innovation spillovers:** 1% gross annual global revenue for R&D spending in the Union;

✓ **Sourcing strategy:** 30% input products manufactured in the EU;



IAA sectors – where are they located?

EIIs, net-zero technologies and automotive components production sites in the EU



Source: JRC - [Energy and Industry Geography Lab \(EIGL\)](#) 2026 for EIIs, Internal EC - [Net-Zero Technologies \(NZT\) Monitoring Dashboard](#) for net-zero technologies, BloombergNEF for battery cells, Eurostat 2023 for automotive components.

Note: Eurostat data on the automotive component sector is based on NACE code C293 (Manufacture of parts and accessories for motor vehicles). Data on Cyprus is undisclosed due to confidentiality.



Thank you



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MiEU and low carbon energy intensive industries

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

January 2029

Aluminium

25 % MiEU and low-carbon

Cement

5 % MiEU and low-carbon

Steel

25% Low-carbon



In construction and automotive sectors



MiEU Vehicle components and batteries

EIF + 6 months

EIF + 3 years

EVs



- Assembled in the EU
- 3 battery components (among which cells) MiEU
- 70% non-battery components MiEU

- Assembled in the EU
- 5 battery components (among which cells, CAM & BMS) MiEU
- 70% non-battery components MiEU (incl. 50% of e-powertrain components MiEU and 50% main electronic systems MiEU)

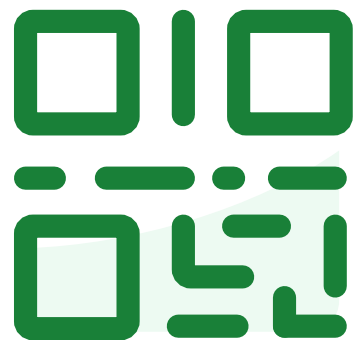
Small EVs



- Assembled in the EU
- 3 battery components MiEU or 70% non-battery components MiEU

MiEU: Made in EU/ EIF: Entry into force





**Join at slido.com
#IAA**



Which objective of the Industrial Accelerator Act do you consider most important?



What do SMEs need most to scale?



What idea from the IAA presentation resonates most with you?

Panel debate

Fabrizio Guarrasi, Innovation Manager, Lombardy Energy Cleantech Cluster (LE2C)

Hugo Durand, Territorial Relations Officer, EDF; CleanTech Vallée

Tobias Lechtenfeld, Executive Director, Tech for Net Zero

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EU launches new call for Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs local partners

Erasmus for Young
Entrepreneurs

The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) has opened a call for proposals (SMP-COSME-2026-EYE) under the Single Market Programme to select **Intermediary Organisations (IOs)** that will **run the Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs programme locally**.

The programme supports cross-border exchanges between new or aspiring entrepreneurs and experienced host entrepreneurs in different participating countries, aiming to boost entrepreneurial skills, internationalisation and SME competitiveness. Applicants need proven **experience in supporting businesses** and must meet all eligibility and compliance requirements set out in the call.

Proposals must be submitted by **21 April 2026**. The call has a total budget of €20 million.

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Innovation Fund: Net Zero Technologies - General decarbonisation

The Fund provides grants for projects aimed at the **commercial deployment of innovative low-carbon technologies**, with the objective of bringing to the market industrial solutions to decarbonise Europe's economy and support the transition to climate neutrality. Options are:

- Large-Scale Projects
- Medium-Scale Projects
- Small-Scale Projects

These topics aim to support and advance **innovative low-carbon technologies and processes** to significantly mitigate climate change, promoting sustainable development and technological leadership within Europe.

Proposals must be submitted by **23 April 2026**.

TOPIC ID: INNOVFUND-2025-NZT

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Pilot access schemes to Technology Infrastructures for European startups, scaleups and innovative SMEs (CSA)

Proposals should demonstrate the following expected outcomes:

- A sound **understanding of the specific needs of industrial users** (including but not limited to innovative SMEs, startups and scaleups) for Technology infrastructure services in specific priority areas including but not limited to advanced materials, clean energy, or health and biotechnology;
- Increased **opportunities** for industrial users **for development, testing, up-scaling and deployment** of new technologies via the use of services offered by Technology Infrastructures;
- **Strengthened innovation and technology development capacity** of European SMEs, startups and scaleups via improved access to Technology Infrastructures;
- Attractiveness and effectiveness of the developed access schemes for broadening the range of Technology Infrastructures users, especially for startups and scaleups, including with transnational access.

Proposals must be submitted by **21 April 2026**.

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD-45

More information on this call can be found on the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

Continue the discussion



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THANK YOU

