

ISOPA supports the Commission's push for a Clean Industrial Deal and calls for action

*On 26 February 2025, the European Commission published its **Communication on a Clean Industrial Deal**, designed to strengthen European industry while accelerating the shift to clean energy. ISOPA welcomes the Commission's commitments and calls for the necessary tangible actions which must follow suit.*

The Clean Industrial Deal targets energy-intensive sectors that require support to decarbonize and remain globally competitive. By addressing high costs, regulatory complexities, and unfair global competition, the Deal aims to ensure Europe remains at the forefront of sustainable innovation.

The Communication maintains that the Chemicals Industry Package is set for adoption in late 2025, and that it will recognise the strategic role of the chemicals sector as "industry of industries". The measure will propose targeted initiatives to enhance the sector's competitiveness, modernisation, European production and innovation, and address 'critical molecules'.

In addition, to promote affordable energy, the Commission also published an **Affordable Energy Action Plan** which seeks to lower costs by boosting clean energy deployment, electrification, and efficiency to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Over €100 billion is committed to support clean manufacturing, including a new State Aid Framework and an Industrial Decarbonisation Bank. A Critical Raw Material Centre and central purchasing mechanism will also be set up to improve resource security, while a Circular Economy Act (2026) targets 24% circular material use by 2030. Finally, the EU will establish Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships, strengthen trade defence mechanisms, and simplify the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism.

Commission president Ursula von der Leyen presented the Deal with European industry in Antwerp on the same day, where ISOPA was also present.

ISOPA welcomes the European Commission engagement with industry leaders in Antwerp and the presentation of the Clean Industrial Deal, a timely and important initiative. We recognise that nine out of ten priorities outlined in the Antwerp Declaration have now been acknowledged by EU leadership which is a positive signal of responsiveness to industry concerns.

However, this must be translated into tangible action. Europe's ambition must now give way to determination. We are at a critical point: each delay in implementing meaningful reform risks eroding Europe's industrial base, deterring investment, and reducing the availability of high-quality jobs for future generations. In an increasingly complex global landscape, bold, decisive leadership is essential.

The Antwerp Declaration remains a vital and urgent roadmap for reindustrialisation in Europe. ISOPA and the polyurethane value chain are committed to being constructive partners in this effort, supporting innovation, sustainability, and resilience in the European chemicals sector.

ISOPA represents major European manufacturers of aromatic diisocyanates and polyols, the main raw materials used to make polyurethanes. More information on diisocyanates, their applications and ISOPA's product stewardship initiatives can be found on the [ISOPA website](https://www.isopa.org).