

2024-2029

A mandate to enable sustainable transformation

The next legislature will be crucial for the European Union to make progress towards its goal of climate neutrality. By the end of the next mandate, the EU should have almost reached its first milestone of a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Flat glass products are essential to reduce overall CO₂ emissions by **limiting energy consumption in buildings, developing safe and low-carbon mobility and providing photovoltaic efficiency.**

With the direction and general framework in place, the European Commission's next mandate should focus on targeted actions to enable industry and civil society to accelerate the pace of sustainable transformation.

The flat glass sector is strategic as it is producing an indispensable product for Europe's journey towards climate-neutrality. To ensure the EU-based industry can maximise its contributions to this sustainability journey, Glass for Europe calls for targeted actions in four essential workstreams to be prioritised in the coming years.

Boost windows replacement



Windows account for up to 30% of energy loss in a building. **High performance glazing must therefore become mainstream** to drastically improve buildings' energy efficiency by reducing heating and cooling demand.

The flat glass industry can only reduce its manufacturing emissions by switching to low carbon energy, increasing recycling and improving the efficiency of the existing process. If the sector has already **decreased by 43% its CO₂ emissions per tonne of glass**, further support is needed to enable this massive industrial transformation.



Support energy and carbon efficiency of industrial process

Incentivise the recycling of old glazing



Recycling is one of the **most prominent ways to reduce raw materials, energy consumption and CO₂ emissions** from flat glass manufacturing. With 1.5 million tonnes of waste glass (old windows, facades, internal partitions) generated in the EU annually, there is an enormous recycling potential to tap into.

European flat glass manufacturers currently supply **85% of the EU demand for building glass** but high energy prices and growing international competition are real threats to the industry's competitiveness and resilience.



Strengthen Europe's industrial base



“Thermally insulating and solar control glass can help people save money on their energy bills and improve their health and comfort.”
Jean Ries, Guardian Glass

Boost windows replacement



- ▶ Focus on the **building envelope** with a specific attention to **glazing and windows replacement**
- ▶ **Swift implementation of the EED and the EPBD** with guidelines to Member States on the energy performance of transparent building elements and on cost-optimality calculations
- ▶ **Develop a whole life cycle methodology** for buildings to support the use of EU-made low(er) carbon products and materials

Support energy and carbon efficiency of industrial process

“We have made big steps [...] but moving to a lower carbon industry is bringing tremendous financial and technological challenges.”
Davide Cappellino, AGC Glass

- ▶ Massively invest in the production and infrastructure of **low-carbon energy sources** to ensure their **long-term availability and affordability**
- ▶ Ensure the **proper functioning of the carbon market post-2030**
- ▶ **De-risk investments in innovative flat glass manufacturing technologies**
- ▶ Ensure a **level-playing field** for EU products to compete on an equal footing with imports



Incentivise the recycling of old glazing

“We advocate for specific recycling targets, tailored to different materials to ensure flat glass returns to production furnaces.”
Joana Arreguy, Saint-Gobain



- ▶ Set a framework to **incentivise the adequate sorting of construction and demolition waste** and provide a **definition for ‘high-quality recycling’**
- ▶ Grant an **EU-wide ‘by-product’ status** to pre-consumer glass
- ▶ Define **targets for construction and demolition waste glass** and rules on dismantling and recovering glass from windows and glazing

Strengthen Europe’s industrial base

“The EU needs to design policies for products with lower embodied carbon to be attractive and competitive.”
Christian Quenett, NSG Group

- ▶ Develop a **new industrial strategy** to help accomplish the EU Green Deal and address the needs of industries manufacturing advanced materials, like glass
- ▶ Provide **easy access to decarbonised energy** to maintain competitive production costs
- ▶ **Support demand for energy efficient and EU-made low(er) carbon products**
- ▶ **Fine-tune the taxonomy criteria** to make sure companies have sufficient access to finance

