PRESS RELEASE

Industrial Accelerator Act – A constructive first step but more is needed to strengthen flat glass manufacturing in Europe

Brussels, [04 March 2026] – *'The Industrial Accelerator Act represents a constructive first step towards supporting European-made products'* declared Bertrand Cazes, Secretary General of Glass for Europe.

The Commission's proposal recognises the manufacturing, shaping, and processing of flat glass as a strategic sector whose production must be retained and expanded within Europe. Glazing is a critical input for the construction, automotive and solar-energy industries, key sectors addressed by this regulation.

It is logical that our industry should benefit from the provisions on accelerated permitting and be eligible for inclusion within designated Acceleration Areas ensuring a regulatory environment conducive to investment.

Regarding EU-origin requirements in public procurement and support schemes, the current scope covers only a limited range of materials, despite the strategic relevance of others, including flat glass. The criteria for material selection, the thresholds applied, and the proposed extension to eligible third countries should be clearly articulated.

Glass for Europe welcomes that provisions related to the automotive sector cover all vehicle components with a 70% ex-works price threshold. The role of critical components such as automotive glazing may deserve to be better specified to boost the competitiveness of the entire automotive eco-system, as intended by the recent Automotive Strategy.

'While a resilient European flat glass sector is clearly strategic for the construction, automotive and solar energy value chains, further refinement and additional measures will be needed to fully strengthen flat glass and glazing manufacturing in Europe' concluded Bertrand Cazes.

Glass for Europe is the trade association for Europe's flat glass sector. Flat glass is the material that goes into a variety of end products, primarily in windows and facades for buildings, windscreens and windows for automotive and transport as well as solar energy equipment, furniture and appliances. Glass for Europe brings together the entire building glass value-chain. It is composed of flat glass manufacturers, AGC Glass Europe, Guardian, NSG-Group, Saint-Gobain Glass, Şişecam and works in association with national partners gathering thousands of building glass processors and transformers all over Europe.