

THE BILBAO MANIFESTO

We, representatives of Europe's clean electricity technology sector, call on policymakers, regulators and electricity network operators to put in place a business framework that supports the realisation of Europe's energy transition.

We are the people that build and install Europe's clean electricity system;

We are fundamental for achieving Europe's strategic security and resilience, climate, competitiveness, and affordability objectives;

We design, manufacture and install the full range of the essential technologies that enable the secure and efficient operation of Europe's clean electricity system;

We represent over 770,000 companies employing over 11.6 million people who put their collective expertise to work to craft a brighter, electric future.

We are delivering and are investing a massive combined total of more than EUR 13 billion in expanding capacity.

We ask **policymakers, regulators and electricity network operators to:**

1. **Recognise** the strategic importance of **Europe's clean electricity technology sector** and qualify support for it as a vital European and national interest;
2. **Ensure** the swift deployment of technologies developed and manufactured in Europe without delay, because the **expansion and upgrade of Europe's clean electricity grids needs to be accelerated**;
3. **Support the growth of the clean energy technology workforce**;
4. **Make clear, realistic, longer-term commitments** on demand for conventional and digital technologies;
5. **Avoid adding new policy barriers** to the competitiveness of Europe-based manufacturers and installers, as the sector is facing an accumulation of obstacles for a sector that has to deliver so much;
6. **Accelerate** the modernisation and **digitalisation** of Europe's clean electricity system, including smart grids, while ensuring **cybersecurity** and grid resilience;
7. **Ensure sustainability** is supporting the competitiveness of Europe's clean electricity technology supply chain.
8. Develop a well-designed "**European preference** principle";

9. Ensure a **fair competitive international environment** by taking measures addressing unfair trade practices, while avoiding measures that deteriorate the competitiveness of Europe's clean electricity technology supply chain. European clean electricity technology manufacturers have been substantially investing in Europe over the last years. The viability of such investments in Europe should be then secured.

What we propose:

- The Commission to launch a **Strategic Dialogue** with the sector in Q1 2026 to discuss, inter alia, the creation of the **European Supply Chain Council** for the clean electricity technology sector;
- The Commission to put forward – via the upcoming European Grids Package – a consistent policy and regulatory framework recognising the strategic enabling role of clean electricity technologies. Such framework should **strengthen the European manufacturing and installation base** while ensuring a timely electricity grids buildout;
- The Commission, Member States and the clean energy technology sector need to jointly step up the cooperation to **improve skills curricula** at different education levels to increase the number of qualified workers in the clean electricity technology sector and develop reskilling programmes for the diverse needs in the sector;
- The Commission to establish a **clean electricity technology mainstreaming** of all its policy proposals to avoid negatively affecting the buildout of the clean electricity system.
- Member States, regulators and network operators to adopt and translate **on- and off-shore transmission and distribution network development plans** into **industrial plans and budgets** in terms of planning, permitting and execution in 2026;
- The Commission to introduce policy and regulatory frameworks for **investment in the digitalisation** of the electricity system and to ensure a harmonised approach on **data management** and interoperability across EU grids
- The Commission and Member States to adopt clear harmonised rules for industry on how to implement and report **sustainability** requirements that enhance circularity and secures access to Critical Raw Materials.
- The Parliament, Commission and Council to adopt a carefully designed “European preference” criteria in **tendering, auctions and procurement processes** for clean electricity technology in 2026-27, factoring in the unique footprint of Europe-based manufacturers while factoring the need to leverage global supply chains.



The Bilbao Manifesto is supported by:



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