

To: Willem van de Voorde, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the EU

Brussels, 15 January 2024

Honourable Ambassador van de Voorde,

On behalf of [European Aluminium](#), the association representing the whole aluminium value chain in Europe, it is my pleasure to welcome Belgium to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Belgian Presidency arrives at a pivotal moment in Europe's economic and political trajectory, marked by challenges such as the ongoing energy and de-industrialization crisis, the uncertainties stemming from the Ukraine war, which could jeopardise the EU's aspirations for achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, and the imminent EU elections.

As one of Europe's industrial strongholds and sustainability frontrunners, the European aluminium value chain wishes **to offer our support in accelerating the EU's path to energy security and strategic autonomy, especially in the raw materials sector, and help strengthen Europe's resilience in industrial excellence and sustainability leadership.**

Aluminium is one of the most complete raw materials sectors in Europe today. Europe produces about 4Mt of primary aluminium and operates several hundred primary, semi-fabrication and recycling plants across the continent, including in Belgium. As you know, aluminium has been recognised as a strategic raw material for the twin transition in the Critical Raw Materials Act, being a key supplier of many different ecosystems such as electric mobility, defence, solar modules, windmills, electricity networks and battery storage technology but also energy-efficient buildings, consumer goods, aerospace and packaging.

As demonstrated by a study by KU Leuven¹, **the EU transition towards a fully green economy will lead to a 30% increase in aluminium demand by 2040 with electric vehicles, solar power, and electricity networks as the main growth drivers.** Europe will need aluminium in greater quantities than today, but there is a risk for the complete outsource of aluminium manufacturing, causing a strategic dependency of the supply, if no policy actions are taken in the short and medium terms. Therefore, we hope to count on the support of the Belgian presidency in advancing an effective EU industrial policy that safeguards key industries for the twin transition, including ours.

The coming six months will be crucial for the future development of the European agenda and the Belgian Presidency will have a key role in shaping policy conditions that can enable our industry to continue to supply the European Green Deal with low-carbon, responsibly produced and circular aluminium.

We look forward to contributing to your Presidency programme with our industry knowhow and vision for a sustainable and thriving EU industry, and hope to welcome you soon at one of our six hundred aluminium plants in Europe.



Yours sincerely,
Paul Voss
Director General, European Aluminium

¹ KU Leuven Study "[Metals for Clean Energy](#)" (2022)