Brussels, 13 November 2026

Subject: Urgent appeal to uphold the Commission's commitments on aluminium scrap exports

Honourable President von der Leyen,

Over the past year, the European Commission has made clear, explicit and repeated commitments to help retain more aluminium scrap, a strategic and critical raw material for European industry, in Europe.

As you are no doubt aware, the proposed trade measure, which the Commission had promised to bring forward in Q2 2026, was ultimately shelved on the grounds that its limited geographical scope would have made it ineffective. More explicitly, any measure which fails to address India, whose share of Europe's aluminium scrap exports is over 30% and growing, cannot possibly achieve its stated purpose.

In explaining its decision to put the trade measure on hold, the Commission argued that a delegated act under the Waste Shipment Regulation would provide *a more effective solution*. As we approach the deadline for the adoption of said act, we, the undersigned leaders representing the entire European aluminium value chain, wish to express our deep concern over suggestions that the European Commission is under immense pressure from India to reverse course and place them on the list of authorised export destinations for scrap metal.

Any such decision would (1) deal a further blow to one of Europe's strategic raw materials sectors, (2) compromise the EU's ambitions in the fields of strategic autonomy, circularity and decarbonisation, and (3) gravely undermine the Commission's status as a reliable partner and advocate for the European industries it has pledged to defend.

A year has passed since the Commission's promise to address the scrap leakage crisis, and the situation facing the European aluminium industry continues to deteriorate. We see plant closures and bankruptcies on an alarming and unprecedented scale. *Meanwhile, based on the Commission's commitment to act*, those companies with the means to do so have continued to invest in new recycling capacity, with hundreds of millions being deployed. Neither our industry nor Europe itself can afford to wait any longer while a critical and strategic raw material is drawn away from Europe towards markets distorted by subsidies, structural overcapacity, unequal labour/environmental standards, and trade barriers.

The European aluminium industry remains convinced that the originally proposed trade measure, with the widest possible geographical coverage, would be the most effective and appropriate tool to address Europe's growing scrap leakage crisis. If the Waste Shipment Regulation tool is to be undermined by the inclusion of India on a green list, it would be even more essential for the Commission to immediately put the planned trade measure back on the agenda, with India in scope.

Madame President, since the beginning of your first mandate nearly seven years ago, our industry has actively supported your ambition to make Europe a place where green and industrial ambitions can be reconciled and pursued in harmony. At this crucial moment, we now expect the Commission to honour both the letter and the spirit of its commitments in return. Any decision to do otherwise would inflict enormous and avoidable damage on one of Europe's strategic industrial value chains. Just as seriously, it would raise fundamental questions about the EU's

European Aluminium
Avenue des Nerviens, 85
1040 Brussels – Belgium
LinkedIn: European-aluminium-association
YouTube: EuroAluAssoc
info@european-aluminium.eu
www.european-aluminium.eu
VAT: BE 0480 720 716

willingness and ability to defend Europe's strategic interests in the face of external pressures that will only intensify in the coming years.

By one means or another, we look forward to swift confirmation that the Commission will keep its promise.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned members of the European Aluminium Executive Committee

Paul Voss, Director General

Paul Warton, EVP Hydro Extrusions

Rob Van Gils, CEO

Guillaume de Goÿs, CEO

Philipp Schlüter, CEO

Matt Schicke, General Manager Atlantic Aluminum Sales & Trading

Emilio Braghi, Senior Vice President & President

Constantin Catsaros, Vice-Chairman

Lambert Guilbault, Director External Affairs Europe

Einar Glomnes, CEO

Philippe Hoffmann President Aerospace & Transportation

Victor Breguncci, CEO

Roberta Niboli, CEO

Dr. Roman Stiftner, Managing Director