

Technical note on



## European roadmaps with an impact on corporate sustainability

*Competitiveness Compass  
Clean Industrial Deal  
Circular Economy Action Plan*





1. **Executive summary**

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2. **How can we help?**

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3. **Schedule**

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G. **Glossary**

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## 1

# Executive summary

## Introduction

The European Commission has launched a coherent industrial strategy in which the Competitiveness Compass acts as a framework roadmap and integrates key initiatives such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan, articulating a common vision to strengthen European competitiveness through innovation, decarbonization, and circularity



### Competitiveness Compass

- The Competitiveness Compass presented in **January 2025**, defines the **overall strategy** for **relaunching European industrial growth**.
- Its goal is to combine productivity, sustainability, and autonomy through **three key pillars: boosting productivity, innovation, and climate neutrality** in Europe.
- The plan integrates the publication of **other structural initiatives** such as the **Circular Economy Action Plan** and is supported by cross-cutting themes such as regulatory simplification, the single market, sustainable financing, and job training.



### Clean Industrial Deal

- Published in **February 2025**, setting **out the EU's climate and industrial roadmap** for a more competitive and sustainable industry.
- It activates **six strategic pillars**, including access to affordable energy, the promotion of clean technologies, the circular economy, green financing, and talent.
- It seeks to **decarbonize productive sectors, remove regulatory barriers, and strengthen European industrial autonomy**.



### Circular Economy Action Plan

- Published in **March 2020**, it is one of the **pillars of the European Green Deal** and aims to accelerate the transition to a sustainable and innovative economy.
- It promotes **circularity in all phases of the product life cycle** and strengthens **key industrial value chains**.
- In the context of the Competitiveness Compass, the European Commission plans to launch a **Circular Economy Action Plan**.



Based on a common vision of productivity, sustainability, and autonomy, these three roadmaps present regulatory challenges and opportunities for transformation. For European companies, they represent a structural change in an increasingly demanding environment in terms of traceability, circularity, and global resilience.



# Executive summary

## Competitiveness Compass



On January 29, 2025, the European Commission presented the Competitiveness Compass, a strategic roadmap to boost productivity, innovation, and climate neutrality in Europe, based on the Draghi report

### Context

- Based on the **Draghi report**, published in 2024 as a roadmap for restoring competitiveness in Europe, the Commission presented the **Competitiveness Compass** in January 2025, which lays the foundations for sustainable growth in the EU.

### Three key pillars. The Compass sets out three strategic priorities:



#### Closing the innovation gap with the EU's main competitors

- Creation of an environment conducive to startups and cutting-edge technologies such as AI, robotics, and quantum computing.
- Promoting initiatives such as "AI Gigafactories," a strategy for start-ups, and a common legal regime that simplifies corporate, tax, and labor rules to facilitate the creation and expansion of innovative businesses in the single market.



#### Linking decarbonization and competitiveness

- Launch of the Clean Industrial Deal, an Affordable Energy Plan, and a Regulation on Accelerating Industrial Decarbonization, together with specific sectoral plans for industries such as steel, chemicals, metals, and agriculture and food, strengthening production in Europe with sustainable and circular models.



#### Reducing dependencies and increasing security

- Strengthening European supply chains through green trade agreements and public procurement reforms, prioritizing strategic sectors such as steel, chemicals, and metals, and key technologies such as artificial intelligence and clean hydrogen.

### Horizontal facilitators of competitiveness. To ensure the effective implementation of the Compass and strengthen European competitiveness across the board:

#### Simplifying the regulatory environment

- Developing proposals to simplify rules, reduce the regulatory burden, and speed up administrative procedures to make Europe a more attractive place for investing.

#### Removing barriers in the single market

- Removing existing obstacles so that all businesses can take full advantage of the economies of scale offered by the single market. Special attention will be paid to SMEs and start-ups.

#### Facilitating more efficient financing

- Promoting a European Savings and Investment Union to channel savings into investments, encourage venture capital, and facilitate access to financing aligned with EU priorities.

#### Promoting skills and quality jobs

- Proposing a Skills Union to align training and employment, promoting investment in learning, fair mobility, and the recognition of qualifications across the EU.

#### Ensuring better coordination

- Creation of a Competitiveness Coordination Tool to align national and EU policies, promote cross-border projects, and channel resources through a future Competitiveness Fund that will unify existing financial instruments.



# 1 Executive summary

## Clean Industrial Deal



In February 2025, the EC published the Clean Industrial Deal as an industrial and climate roadmap. The Deal activates six key pillars to transform European industry with more affordable energy, circular innovation, and sustainable jobs



### Context

- The **transition to a decarbonized economy** is one of the EU's greatest industrial challenges, in a context of **high energy prices**, **international competitive pressure**, **fragmentation of the single market**, and the need to **strengthen strategic resilience**. The European Commission has identified **three priority challenges** for European industry: **access to affordable energy**, **global competition**, and **financing constraints** for transformative projects.
- In response, the EC has been developing structural initiatives to **strengthen industrial competitiveness**, advance the **2040 and 2050 climate targets**, and ensure greater **autonomy in strategic sectors** such as energy, technology, and raw materials.
- In this context, in **February 2025**, the EC presented the **Clean Industrial Deal as an industrial and climate roadmap**.

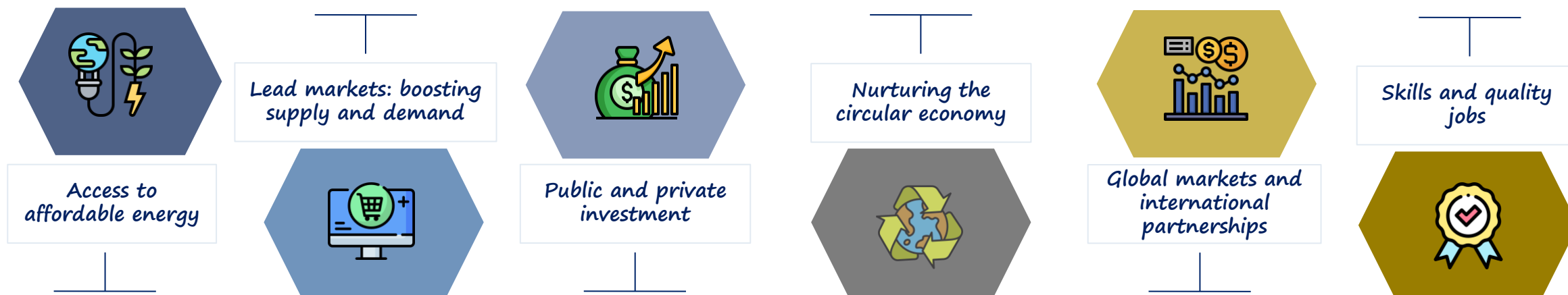


### Objective

- **Transforming** European industry, making it more **sustainable** and **competitive** by promoting decarbonization, reindustrialization, and innovation.
- **Eliminate the barriers** that still hold back European companies and present a clear business case for Europe.



### Key elements



# 1 Executive summary

## Circular Economy Action Plan



In March 2020, the EC adopted the second Circular Economy Action Plan, which reinforces the EU's commitment to a more sustainable and competitive economy by integrating measures in design, production, and consumption throughout the value chain

Context	Objective	Next steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>2015</b>, the EC adopted the <b>first</b> Circular Economy Action Plan, with <b>54 measures</b> throughout the product life cycle to accelerate the circular transition. These included <b>municipal waste recycling targets, binding limits on landfilling, and measures to reduce food waste</b> and marine litter.</li> <li>In <b>2018</b>, this path was reinforced with additional initiatives: the <b>EU Strategy on Plastics</b>, a <b>report on critical raw materials</b>, new rules for single-use plastics, and a legislative proposal on <b>water reuse</b>.</li> <li>Meanwhile, the EC launched the <b>European Green Deal</b> as a roadmap for transforming the EU economy towards a more sustainable model. The <b>circular economy</b> is one of its key pillars, enabling a reduction in resource use, emissions, and biodiversity loss.</li> <li>In <b>March 2020</b>, the Commission adopted the <b>second Circular Economy Action Plan</b> as a structural pillar of the Green Deal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Streamlining the regulatory framework</b> to adapt it to a <b>sustainable future, maximizing the opportunities</b> of the transition and <b>reducing burdens</b> on citizens and businesses.</li> <li><b>Make sustainable products the norm</b> and transform consumption patterns to prevent waste.</li> <li>Ensure a <b>positive impact of the circular economy</b> on people, regions, and cities, strengthening competitiveness and economic resilience, and boosting climate neutrality, innovation, digitalization, and the EU's global leadership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The initiatives will contribute to reducing emissions and halting biodiversity loss, supporting the goal of climate neutrality by <b>2050</b>.</li> <li>The EC will strengthen <b>monitoring with national plans</b>, new indicators, and complementary metrics from programs such as Horizon Europe and Copernicus<sup>1</sup>.</li> <li>In <b>2026</b>, the EC will adopt new legislation to boost the circular market, simplify waste rules, and strengthen demand for sustainable products.</li> </ul>

### Key elements





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3. Schedule

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G. Glossary

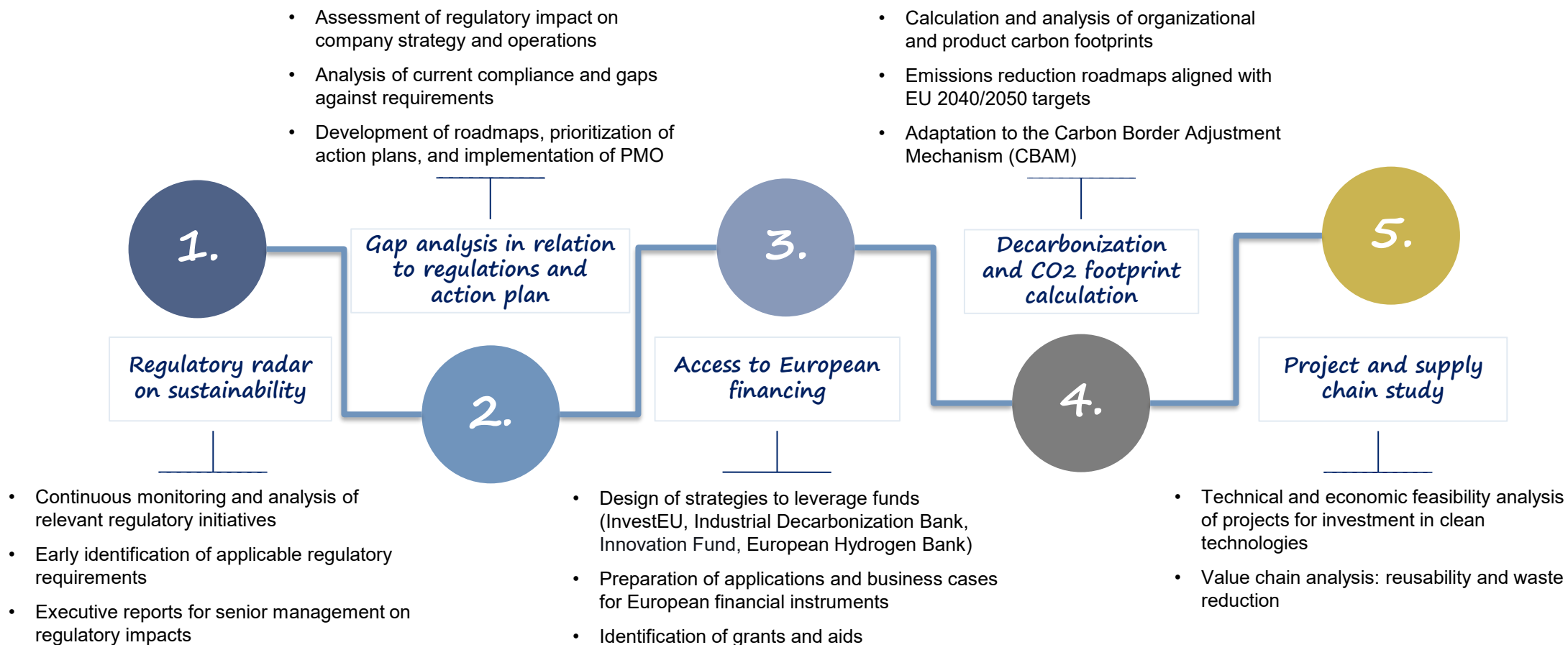
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## 2 | How can we help?

### Types of collaboration

Management Solutions offers support to companies in adapting to the requirements of the European Commission's industrial strategy in its various areas (innovation, decarbonization, and circularity).







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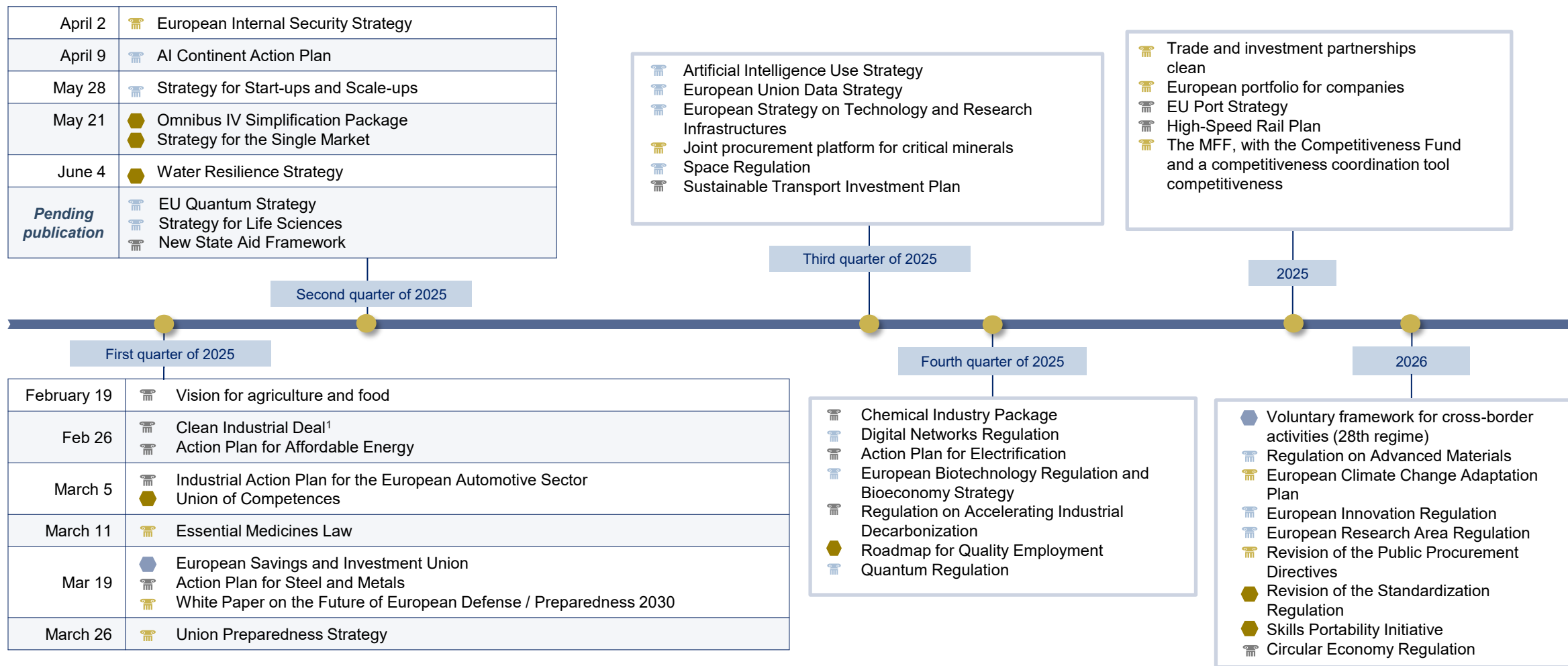
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G. **Glossary**

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The Competitiveness Compass sets out the European roadmap towards a more productive, innovative, and sustainable industry

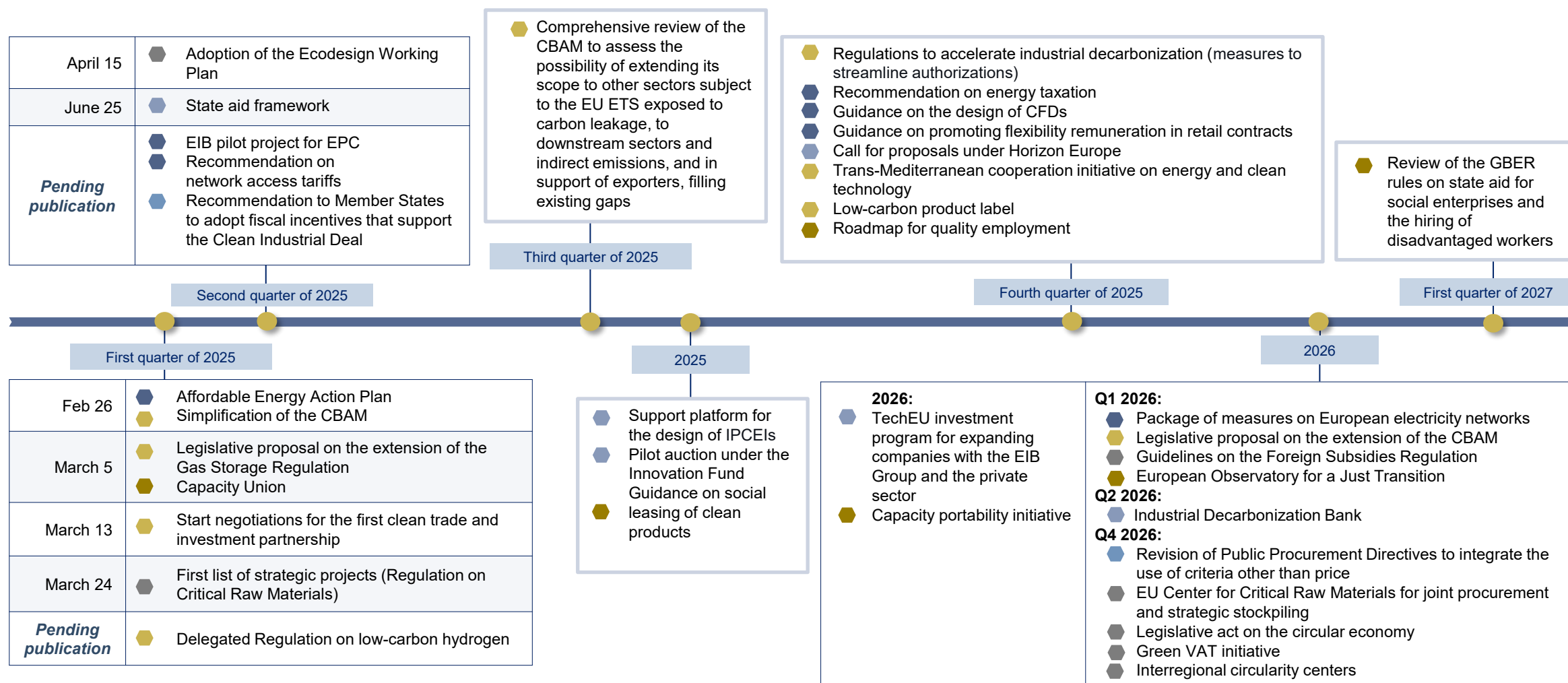




## Schedule Clean Industrial Deal

- Access to affordable energy
- Lead markets
- Public and private investment
- Nurturing the circular economy
- Global markets and partnerships
- Skills and quality jobs

In February 2025, the EC launched the Clean Industrial Deal as an industrial and climate roadmap. The Deal activates six key pillars to transform European industry with more affordable energy, circular innovation, and sustainable jobs

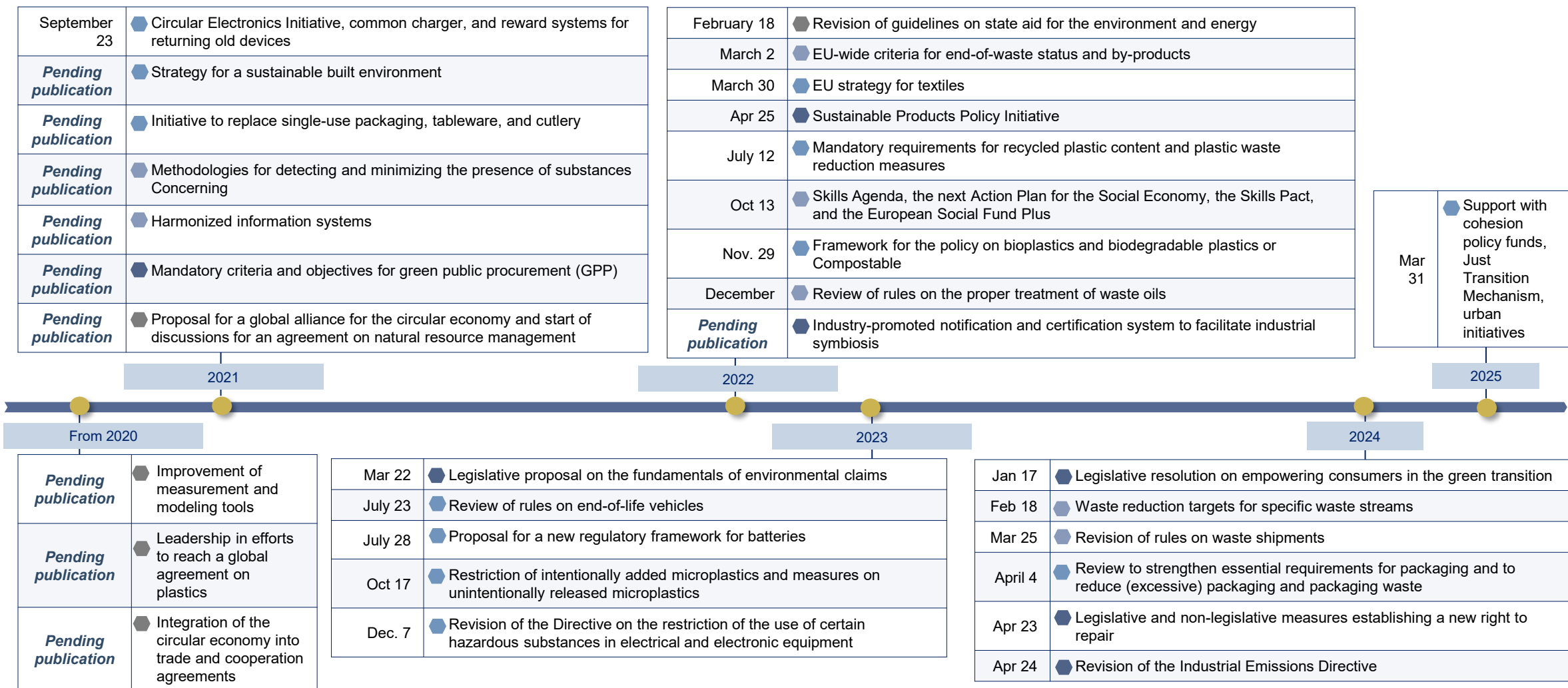


## Schedule

### Circular Economy Action Plan



In March 2020, the EC presented the latest Circular Economy Action Plan, which reinforces the EU's commitment to a more sustainable and competitive economy, integrating measures in design, production, and consumption throughout the entire value chain







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2. How can we help?

---

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# G Glossary

AI	Artificial Intelligence
CAPEX	Capital Expenditure
CBAM	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CCfD	Carbon Contracts for Difference
CISAF	Clean Industrial Deal State Aid Framework
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
COREPER	Committee of Permanent Representatives
CSRD	Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
DSA	Digital Services Act
EC	European Commission
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESG	Environmental, Social & Governance
EPC	Energy Performance Contract
ESPR	Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation
ETS	EU Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
FTAs	Free Trade Agreements
GPP	Green Public Procurement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDB	Industrial Decarbonization Bank

InvestEU	EU funding and investment program
IPCEI	Important Projects of Common European Interest
ITS	Implementing Technical Standards
MFF	Multiannual Financial Framework
MFP	Multiannual Financial Perspectives
NFRD	Non-Financial Reporting Directive
OPEX	Operational Expenditure
PMO	Project Management Office
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PPWR	Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation
REACH	EU Chemicals Regulation
GBER	General Block Exemption Regulation
SVHC	Substances of Very High Concern
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment





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