

## Empowering European essential industries, enabling decarbonisation

### Recommendations from Eurogypsum on the Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA)

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Eurogypsum, the association representing European manufacturers of gypsum products such as plaster, plasterboard, and gypsum blocks, supports the European Commission's ambition to accelerate industrial investment and decarbonisation, with the proposal for an Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA).

A key enabler for building renovation and urban densification projects, including vertical extensions, gypsum is sourced responsibly in Europe, handled efficiently and recycled multiple times in a closed loop. Gypsum recycling facilities are being deployed across Europe, leading to increasing volumes of secondary raw materials in our processes.

Gypsum-based lightweight construction products, such as plaster or plasterboard, are manufactured in Europe, with short transportation distances to the markets, and have a relatively low carbon footprint<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the European gypsum industry is gradually decarbonising its production, speeding up the process to a fully decarbonised building stock in Europe<sup>2</sup>.

Our industry is also dedicating efforts to use water in the most efficient way possible when manufacturing plasterboard<sup>3</sup>.

In the meantime, the construction product manufacturing sector is increasingly exposed to unfair competition from outside the EU, largely due to overcapacity in other markets and an unlevel playing field, especially regarding energy and carbon costs<sup>4</sup>.

In order for our industries to compete fairly and speed up buildings' upgrades and Europe's move to climate neutrality, a circular and water efficient economy, industry investments into decarbonised production, water efficiency and recycling capacities should be facilitated. We believe that the IAA has the potential to support the transition and would invite European institutions to consider the following elements, when negotiating on the Act:

<sup>1</sup> On average, plaster has a footprint of 0.1 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/kg. For plasterboard, the footprint is estimated at 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Further information on our sector's journey towards climate neutrality:

<https://eurogypsum.org/towards-climate-neutrality-with-gypsum/>

<sup>3</sup> Eurogypsum's Roadmap towards water resilience is available here:

<https://eurogypsum.org/gypsum-industry-unveils-roadmap-towards-increasing-water-resilience/>

<sup>4</sup> More details in our Gypsum Call for Competitiveness: <https://eurogypsum.org/the-gypsum-call-for-competitiveness/>



## 1. Recognise the relevance of access to raw materials

While the proposal rightly focuses on the manufacturing sector - an area of critical importance that significantly contributes to the EU's industrial competitiveness - **all manufacturing activities fundamentally depend on access to raw materials.** However, the proposal does not provide concrete incentives to support the domestic extraction of essential raw materials required by the strategic manufacturing industries listed in Annex I.

Many of these manufacturing sectors are closely linked to key downstream industries such as construction, which could serve as an important driver for the use of domestically sourced raw materials, including those not classified as strategic or critical under the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA). For example, gypsum is indispensable to the building sector, supporting both renovation and new construction. Despite its importance, gypsum is not covered by the support measures under the CRMA due to its availability within the EU. While significant natural deposits exist in countries such as Spain, France, Italy, and Germany, access to these resources remains highly constrained. Permitting procedures for extraction projects rarely take less than 10 years and are often subject to prolonged legal challenges. At the same time, demand for gypsum is expected to rise, while the supply of synthetic gypsum—derived from the desulphurisation of coal power plant emissions—will gradually disappear as Europe transitions to cleaner energy sources. This emerging supply gap will need to be addressed through increased extraction of natural gypsum. Without secure access to domestic resources, there is a growing risk of increased dependence on imports.

In light of these considerations, we propose **explicitly including mining and quarrying activities in Annex I**, particularly for raw materials that are essential to the strategic manufacturing sectors already listed. Specifically, **selected activities under NACE code group B, including B8.1.1, should be added.** Furthermore, the wording in Chapter V should be revised to refer to both “manufacturing and extractive activities,” rather than focusing solely on manufacturing. This change would acknowledge the critical role of raw material supply in enabling strategic manufacturing and demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the sourcing of these materials within Europe. Strengthening European industrial capacity requires a holistic approach that addresses the entire value chain, rather than limiting support to the manufacturing stage alone.

## 2. Protect essential industries from unfair competition

Energy-Intensive Industries such as the gypsum industry would benefit from two of the four pillars of the IAA mainly: the permitting framework (Pillar 1) and the industrial manufacturing acceleration areas (Pillar 4). They are however not covered by **Pillar 2 (Lead Markets)** and **Pillar 3 (Foreign Direct Investment Rules)**, which is a concern. Pillar 2 (Lead Markets) focusses on aluminium, cement/concrete/mortar and steel, whereas gypsum products are as essential to the European construction industry and the achievement of key policy objectives, such as affordable housing supply and the decarbonisation of the building stock.

Whereas today the construction materials sector is very much European, with local value creation, there is a high risk that this may shift in near future, due to



overcapacity in other regions. Next to imports, Foreign Direct Investments in the sector are to be monitored, as this the case for net-zero and clean-tech sectors. As such, the gypsum industry should also be eligible to support measures under Pillar 2 and 3, to protect its ability to source raw materials and manufacture essential construction products in Europe and provide safeguards against the risk of unfair competition.

Therefore, it is essential that **a wider range of manufacturing industries also benefit from certain support measures**. Ensuring broad eligibility is key to strengthening the overall resilience and competitiveness of Europe's industrial base.

### 3. Take an “opt-in” approach to be impactful

**We support an “opt-in” approach rather than the Commission’s proposed “opt-out” model for the “Made in EU” framework.** Effectively supporting European industries is essential. While it is reasonable, under certain conditions - such as the existence of a Free Trade Agreement- to consider content from non-EU countries as equivalent to Union origin, this should be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Countries should therefore be explicitly added to an eligibility list, rather than automatically included by default solely on the basis of an FTA. Furthermore, we support the inclusion of the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and EFTA countries in the list of eligible partners.

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***Eurogypsum** is a European federation of national associations of producers of gypsum products (i.e. plaster and plasterboard). It is one of the few fully integrated industries (from cradle to cradle) within the construction products field. The companies which mine gypsum also process it and manufacture the value-added products and systems used extensively in construction and other industries.  
With a turnover of EUR 7 billion, the European gypsum and anhydrite industry operates some 146 factories and 209 quarries and generates employment directly to 18,600 people and indirectly for 300,000 people. The gypsum industry provides jobs to 1,100,000 plasterers and plasterboard installers. It trains around 25,000 people per year across Europe.*

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