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Opinion piece (Op-ed) to be attributed to Axel Eggert, Director General, The European Steel Association (EUROFER)

The Czech Republic's industry needs help. And it needs help now, not at some undefined moment in the future. Without urgent Government intervention, hundreds of businesses, hundreds of thousands of high value jobs and billions in taxes will be lost.

Soaring electricity and natural gas prices, exacerbated by Russia's disruption to gas supplies, pose a grave threat to Europe's industrial base and its green aspirations. It risks handing a major economic advantage to rivals with far lower energy prices and less ambitious climate targets.

Industry is already making huge efforts to reduce its energy usage. Many sites are taking short term measures such as operating at night to reduce pressure on national grids, alongside massive longer-term investments in low carbon technology.

But if the EU and Governments want us to help deliver a bright green future, they must act now to help industrial businesses survive the looming dark winter. EUROFER and other European trade associations have already called on EU-wide policymakers to provide immediate relief for energy-intensive industries. Rapid response at national Government level is needed too.

Due to the severity of the crisis, we strongly believe a package of solutions is necessary - no options should be left off the table. We have already recommended a raft of solutions to the EU but there are also immediate options Governments can implement themselves to limit the gas and electricity price damage while ensuring security of supply.

Potential fast-track initiatives include a 100€/MWh cap on market revenues from inframarginal electricity, with additional revenues redistributed as a priority to energy intensive industries; allowing regulated energy tariffs for energy intensive industries exposed to global competition; paying maximum compensation allowed for indirect carbon costs as fast as possible; adjusting the Temporary Crisis Framework to allow more effective state aid support to energy intensive industries and releasing allowances from the Market Stability Reserve of the EU Emissions Trading System to alleviate the short term impact of carbon costs.

From the Director General

The Czech Republic's industry can only do so much to help itself. We now need the Czech Government to step up and help us avoid the catastrophic impact the collapse of these strategic industries will have on its people, communities and economy.

Yours sincerely,



Axel Eggert,
Director General
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