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To: [ECSA - Board of Directors INT](#); [ECSA - National Associations](#); [ECSA - Secretariat](#)
Subject: ECSA C-14099 Commission publishes plan to enhance competitiveness of European industry - Competitiveness Compass
Date: Τετάρτη, 29 Ιανουαρίου 2025 9:43:56 μ.μ.
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To ECSA - Board of Directors
ECSA - National Associations

Ref. ECSA C-14099

29/01/2025

Commission publishes plan to enhance competitiveness of European industry - Competitiveness Compass

Dear members,

Today, the Commission published the [Competitiveness Compass](#), which aims to translate the recommendations of the Draghi Report into policy action. The tone of the Commission document seems to be more political than usual, reflecting a wider concern about the geopolitical and economic challenges ahead. It begins by making a reference to "our freedom, security and autonomy" that "depend more than ever on our ability to innovate, compete and grow".

The Competitiveness Compass builds upon **three policy pillars** and seven horizontal enablers:

Pillar 1: closing the innovation gap

Pillar 2: joint roadmap for decarbonisation and competitiveness

Pillar 3: reducing dependencies and increasing security

To support these pillars, the Commission will implement **horizontal actions**: simplification and creating more competitive business environment, developing stronger single market, financing competitiveness and a Savings and Investments Union and promoting skills and quality jobs.

Key highlights for shipping

On a positive development, the document highlights that the new European Maritime Industrial Strategy (2025), will highlight the **role the maritime industry plays in the EU economy**. The Commission will also put forward a Sustainable Transport Investment Plan with **additional measures to de-risk investments** needed to swiftly ramp up the **production** and distribution of **renewable and low-carbon fuels** for shipping.

In addition, measures such as **contracts for difference** and a wider and easier use of 'auction-as-a-service' schemes to **use the national EU ETS revenues under the EU ETS Innovation Fund are proposed**. The use of the national ETS revenues has been one of the main points supported by ECSA over the last year.

The document highlights that the **regulatory burden** has become a brake on Europe's competitiveness. The Commission commits to deliver targets for reducing reporting burden: at least 25% for all companies and at least 35% for SMEs. This will start next month with the first of a series of **Simplification Omnibus packages**. The first Omnibus is expected to cover a far-reaching simplification in the fields of **sustainable finance reporting, sustainability due diligence and taxonomy**.

The Secretariat follows closely a new initiative under the Competitiveness

Compass, the **New State Aid Framework** (Q2 2025) to support companies to switch to clean technologies. Although there is a focus on energy intensive industries such as steel, metals and chemicals, **no additional details are provided** about the New State Aid Framework and how the manufacturing of clean energy will be supported.

Other initiatives listed include the Clean Industrial Deal (Q1 2025), the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act (Q4 2025), the European Port Strategy (2025), the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Review (2025) and Oceans Pact (Q2 2025).

A more detailed analysis will be sent to the relevant ECSA Committees.

Best regards,
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