

PRESS RELEASE

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# EuCIA and JEC launch first CEOs Breakfast at JEC World 2024

**Vincent Basuyau, European Commission Policy Officer – Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials, discusses EU initiatives to support the transition to net zero and introduces the new advanced materials strategy**

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, the European Commission published the *Communication on Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership*, a new strategy intended to move the EU towards industrial leadership in advanced materials, a key enabling technology for the green and digital transition. This proposes steps to align research and innovation priorities and investments in the EU and is the first action towards a common European approach for advanced materials, including composites.

This new strategy will be introduced on the opening day of JEC World 2024 at the CEOs Breakfast, a new forum designed to address strategic topics with composites industry leaders, organised by JEC in partnership with EuCIA. The theme of this inaugural event is *The EU Green Deal 2050: the Key Milestones for European Industries and the Existing Mechanisms to Support this Transition*. The guest speaker Vincent Basuyau, European Commission Policy Officer – Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials, will discuss the EU's decarbonisation targets and how the advanced materials strategy adds to the existing initiatives available to support industry in reaching these goals.

The presentation will be followed by a panel discussion and a Q&A session with the audience.

"We are honoured to partner with JEC to host this session for composites industry leaders," states Roberto Frassine, President of EuCIA. "As EuCIA, our objective is to support the sustainable growth of the European composites industry and we hope this event will offer composites leaders inspiration and practical advice which will help shape their long-term strategies and embrace

the transition to net zero as an opportunity for European industry to advance and grow sustainably.”

“The launch of the advanced materials strategy offers new growth opportunities for the composites industry,” states Eric Pierrejean, CEO of JEC. “Advanced materials offer a wealth of solutions for a successful implementation of the European Green Deal and composites contribute to many applications, such as mobility, energy, and construction. This event will be a first opportunity for leaders to find out what this strategy means for the composites industry and for their companies.”

The CEOs Breakfast takes place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and is open to CEOs of JEC World 2024 exhibitors, and EuCIA members. Attendance is by invitation only.

#### *Guest speaker*

- Vincent Basuyau, European Commission Policy Officer – Energy Intensive Industries and Raw Materials

#### *The panelists*

- Clementine Gallet, CEO, Coriolis Composites
- Professor Roberto Frassine, President, Assocompositi, & President, EuCIA
- Eduardo de la Guerra Ochoa, R&D Project Manager, TALGO
- Xavier Pailloux, Compounds Product Line Director, MATERI'ACT

#### *The moderator*

- Jason Palmer, Journalist, The Economist

## **Background**

Advanced materials are engineered to provide superior performance or specific functions. They are fundamental, for example, for innovation in energy, electronics, construction and mobility, and therefore crucial for the green and digital transition. The demand for advanced materials is expected to increase significantly in the coming years.

Composites (or fibre reinforced polymers) are advanced materials. High performance, lightweight, durable composite materials enable, for example, reduced energy consumption with increased safety in transportation, and more robust and longer lasting building structures.

The *Communication on Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership* strategy aims to enhance the EU's long-term competitiveness by ensuring it remains at the forefront of new material technologies. It will also strengthen the EU's autonomy and economic security by reducing dependencies on critical materials.

The Communication proposes actions along five main pillars, to be implemented together with EU Member states, industry players and other key stakeholders:

1. Strengthening the European research and innovation ecosystem on advanced materials.
2. Fast-tracking innovative materials to the market, including a European digital infrastructure for advanced materials research and innovation.
3. Increasing capital investment and access to financing. The EU will set up a new partnership with the industry under Horizon Europe, aiming at €500 million of investments for 2025-2027.
4. Fostering the production and use of advanced materials.
5. Creating a Technology Council for advanced materials to advise on the steering of this initiative.

## **About EuCIA**

The European Composites Industry Association (EuCIA), headquartered in Brussels, represents European national composites associations and industry-specific sector groups at EU level. With the support of its members, EuCIA actively contributes to building an economically and environmentally sustainable European composites industry. EuCIA closely follows relevant standards and legislation, actively communicates on the ways in which composites contribute to a more sustainable world, and promotes educational activities. Our initiatives aim to ensure the healthy growth and continued competitiveness of more than 10,000 companies and an estimated 150,000 employees involved in composites manufacturing across Europe.