



Press release

ESTC Pledges Support for Landmark European Industrial Deal

Brussels, 11 April 2024: 1000 organisations united call on EU Leaders to support the business case for investing in Europe with the European Industrial Deal

EMEA Synthetic Turf Council (ESTC) has signed The Antwerp Declaration, as part of a call for a European Industrial Deal.

The declaration has seen a remarkable surge in support, having reached 1000 supporters from business leaders of companies, associations and Trade Union organisations representing 25 sectors across Europe, in an historic display of unity.

First presented by 73 industry leaders on 20 February at the European Industry Summit to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo, the rapid increase in signatures underscores the pressing need for concerted action in the face of unparalleled economic challenges.

Marco Mensink, Director General of Cefic, emphasised the urgency of the situation: *“The future of Europe is made with industry. A common and holistic European approach for an Industrial Deal is essential. Today, 1000 organisations are united in their strong call for a European Industrial Deal to implement the Green Deal, ensure that industry remains globally competitive, and keep high quality jobs for European workers in Europe. We urge EU Leaders to include our call in the new EU Strategic Agenda and policies for the next five years and embed the Industrial Deal into the structure, budget, and fabric of the new European Commission”.*

The European Council next week and the Competitiveness Council in May, the Letta and Draghi reports, the Clean Transition Dialogues, and the Antwerp Declaration all come together in a historic moment for industry in Europe.

The Antwerp Declaration serves as a wake-up call to decision-makers in Europe, laying out a widely agreed framework of ten key points outlining the need to address high energy prices, establishing common European infrastructure, secure raw material supplies, foster a smarter innovation framework, and stimulate demand for sustainable products. The declaration also advocates for a robust investment framework for technologies and calls for leveraging the single market to ensure businesses remain in Europe.

The Antwerp Declaration for a European Industrial Deal is now open to individuals who wish to express their support in a personal capacity.

Stefan Diderich, CEO of ESTC, said: *“The implementation of a European Industrial Deal is essential to the continued growth of the many sub-sectors that make up the wider European economy,*



including the synthetic turf industry. We are proud to pledge our support for The Antwerp Declaration, and hope that this development will bring about real and lasting change for the continent.”

For more information on and to join the growing coalition of supporters, visit antwerp-declaration.eu

About ESTC:

ESTC is the trade association for the synthetic turf industry in the EMEA region. Its objective and purpose is to serve, promote, develop, grow and advocate for the synthetic turf industry. ESTC works in both the sports and landscaping sectors.

ESTC fulfils its role by means of close collaboration with all parties involved; ESTC members, end-users, sports governing bodies and legislators.

ESTC is a member-driven organisation and has 170 members in various levels of the supply chain of synthetic turf, ranging from polymers to synthetic turf yarns and carpet, installation and even recycling companies. Find out more about the organisation: www.estc.info