

*One Internal Market, common interests and joint value chains of all 30 EEA States*

1. Norway supports and welcomes the EU's ambition to pursue politics for a competitive, innovative and resilient Europe on the way to climate neutrality in 2050, while continuing to pursue a leading role in the global climate effort. We welcome the European Commission's broad, cross-sectoral approach combining competitiveness, decarbonization and security. Joining forces and efficient use of human, natural and financial resources and responsible economic policies are pivotal to meet the challenges we are facing, not at least when Europe needs to use more resources on defence.
2. Norway's industrial base complements the European industry, and we are close partners in many important industrial value chains. Norway contributes significantly to European energy security as a reliable supplier of energy. We are Europe's largest producer of aluminium and silicon, both on the European Commission's list of critical raw materials, and Europe's largest fertilizer producer. We aim to develop important green sectors such as offshore wind, carbon capture and storage and hydrogen. Norway furthermore has valuable experience with electrification of energy-intensive industrial processes and environmental regulation. The EU-Norway Green Alliance is a tool for strengthening the cooperation.
3. To effectively address our joint challenges and opportunities, Norway should be closely involved in the strategic EU discussions on the Clean Industrial Deal. The EEA Agreement is the solid and successful basis for our cooperation, also outside the scope of the EEA Agreement. In designing and drafting Europe's approach to competitiveness and economic and public security, the integrity of the Agreement must be upheld, enabling swift and efficient participation of the EEA EFTA States.

*The integrity of the Internal Market*

4. Open and rules-based international trade is fundamental for positive economic development. Trade restrictive measures should preferably be avoided and carefully assessed. However, Norway recognizes the need for striking a balance between open markets and the protection of common critical value chains for Europe.
5. Ensuring an orderly and well-functioning market for gas and electricity is in our mutual interest. As the energy system is becoming increasingly dependent on weather conditions, cooperation in Europe is crucial to maintain the security of the power system. Any changes to the Single Market for energy should be thoroughly assessed to ensure that they promote efficient markets and security of supply. A more circular economy is a key building block in the transition towards low emission societies. It is important to make better use of resources in products and in waste, and to uphold high standards for a toxic-free environment. Norway supports the key role of circularity in Clean Industrial Deal and will work closely with the EU to achieve these ambitions.
6. We emphasize the importance of cross sectoral economic measures in curbing climate change. Putting a price on carbon, through taxation and the EU ETS, allows the market to find the solutions and allows for cost efficient reductions in emission.

7. Norway's main approach to industrial policy is to ensure that companies have predictable and stable framework conditions that facilitate private investment and growth, and already echoes the six main elements of the Clean Industrial Deal.
8. A well-functioning internal market, providing a level playing field for both EU and EEA EFTA States, is a key priority.
9. A new State aid framework may be required to achieve the aims of the Clean Industrial Deal, including industrial decarbonisation, and enhancing European competitiveness. However, such rules should be strict, well targeted, transparent and proportionate in order to limit the negative effects of State aid on competition and trade and to ensure coherence within the internal market. Strategic or unfair competition between Member States within the green value chains should be avoided.
10. We are in favour of the overall ambition of the simplification. Making regulations more efficient and reducing unnecessary administrative burdens on companies will reduce barriers to entry, promote competition and trade. Increased competition will contribute to a more innovative, productive European industry base. However, it is important that Europe's high ambitions on climate and environment remain.
11. In view of the ongoing preparations for the 2028–2034 programming period, Norway recalls that our participation in EU programmes is laid down in the EEA Agreement. It follows from the Agreement that the EEA EFTA States shall have access to all parts of the EU programmes in which they participate, and that EEA EFTA stakeholders shall have the same rights and obligations as EU stakeholders.
12. It is important to continue using open calls in the future EU programmes and focus on a clearly defined goal of what the support should contribute to. We believe that business support designed with broad, objective criteria to ensure competition between projects and technologies, has the best socioeconomic effect.
13. The principle of technological neutrality should be applied consistently across the Clean Industrial Deal initiatives. The choice between different technologies and approaches should be left to businesses that know their production and are close to the markets. The calls should be open for both entrepreneurs, SMEs and established businesses.
14. Through channelling capital to sustainable projects, the financial sector has a crucial role in the transition to a low-emissions economy.
15. Any *non-price criteria in public procurement* should be used selectively, to ensure that European companies must still compete on the global scale. Competition, after all, is the key to competitiveness. Where "buy European" is considered, it must encompass all 30 EEA States.