

The Industrial Accelerator Act

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What it puts forward
Bellona's take
Reactions in Brussels
Next steps

At first glance

What happened to the D?

Decarbonisation may have disappeared from the title, but text currently contains 67 mentions of “decarbonisation” → strategic choice

Industrialisation target: by 2035, the manufacturing industry of the Union accounts for at least 20% of the Union’s gross domestic product.

Main objectives:

PERMITTING

FOREIGN DIRECT
INVESTMENTS

LEAD MARKETS

INDUSTRIAL
ACCELERATOR
AREAS

NEWS > ENERGY AND CLIMATE

Why the EU’s new industry act is climate policy in disguise

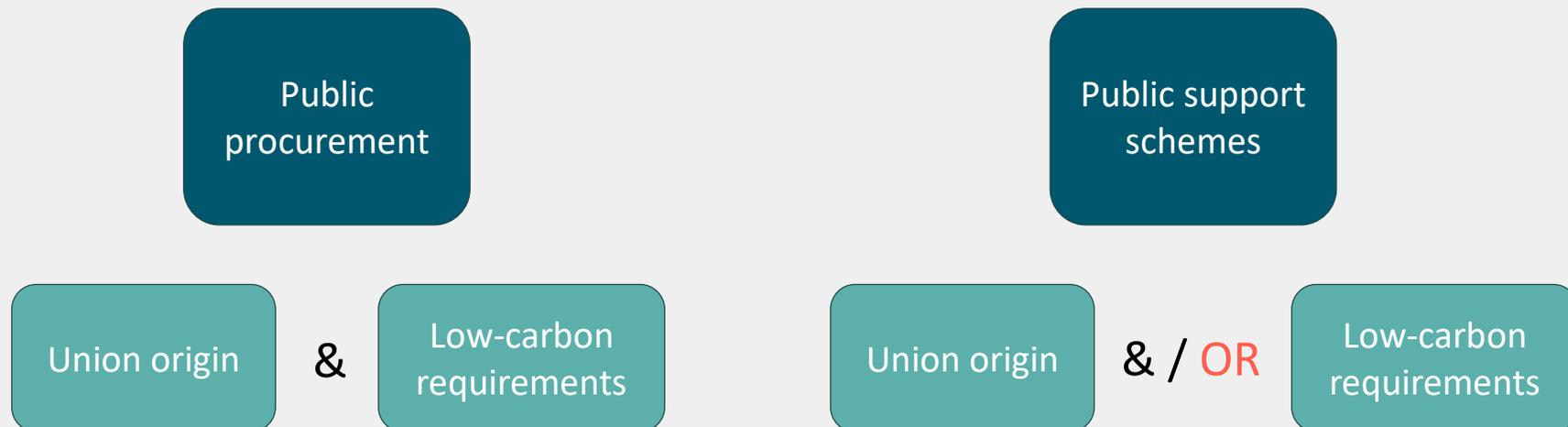
The Industrial Accelerator Act’s green ambitions have evaded scrutiny. POLITICO takes a closer look.

Lead markets under the IAA

Chapter III: Strengthening the Union's strategic industrial value chains

Union origin criteria – applies to EU countries, WTO GPA parties & FTA agreements **on an exclusion principle**.

Low carbon criteria – leaves out the definitions to Delegated Acts that have not been written yet (CPR / ESPR).



Lead markets under the IAA

Chapter III: Strengthening the Union's strategic industrial value chains

Low carbon criteria – leaves out the definitions to Delegated Acts that have not been written yet (CPR / ESPR).

No steel label **The key question is when**

Quotas – in buildings, infrastructure and motor vehicles for civil purposes

- **Steel** - at least **25%** of the total volume of steel used shall be low-carbon;
- **Concrete and mortar** – at least **5%** of the total volume of concrete and mortar used, including the clinker and cement used to produce them, shall be low-carbon and of Union origin;
- **Aluminium** – at least **25%** of the total volume of aluminium used shall be low-carbon and of Union origin.

The quotas seem too low to drive meaningful change

No measures to stimulate private demand have been put forward

Lack of social conditionalities

Industrial manufacturing acceleration areas

- At least one per Member State
- Environmental impact assessment executed per area, and not per project in the area
- All projects in area are deemed strategic
- Not only clean industrial projects (*Annex I list*)

IAAs - what are strategic projects?

ANNEX I

Strategic sectors for industrial manufacturing acceleration areas

1. Energy-intensive industries:
 - (a) Manufacture of paper and paper products, as classified under NACE Code C17;
 - (b) Manufacture of **coke** and **refined petroleum** products, as classified under NACE Code C19;
 - (c) Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products, as classified under NACE Code C20;
 - (d) Manufacture of rubber and **plastic products**, as classified under NACE Code C22;
 - (e) Manufacture of other non-metallic minerals, as classified under NACE Code C23;
 - (f) Manufacture of basic metals, as classified under NACE Code C24.
2. Automotive industry: Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers, as classified under NACE Code C29;
3. Net-zero technologies, as referred to in Article 4(1) of **Regulation (EU) 2024/1735**;

NZIA

Article 4

NZIA List of net-zero technologies

1. The net-zero technologies within the scope of this Regulation shall be:
 - (a) solar technologies, including PV, solar thermal electric and solar thermal technologies;
 - (b) onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies;
 - (c) battery and energy storage technologies;
 - (d) heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies;
 - (e) hydrogen technologies, including electrolysers and fuel cells;
 - (f) sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies;
 - (g) CCS technologies;
 - (h) electricity grid technologies, including electric charging technologies for transport and the grid;
 - (i) nuclear fission energy technologies, including nuclear fuel cycle technologies;
 - (j) sustainable alternative fuels technologies;
 - (k) hydropower technologies;
 - (l) renewable energy technologies, not covered under the previous categories;
 - (m) energy system-related energy efficiency technologies, including heat grid technologies;
 - (n) renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies;
 - (o) biotech climate and energy solutions;
 - (p) transformative industrial technologies for decarbonisation not covered under the previous categories;
 - (q) CO₂ transport and utilisation technologies;
 - (r) wind propulsion and electric propulsion technologies for transport;
 - (s) nuclear technologies not covered under previous categories.



Reactions in Brussels

- Environmental groups acknowledged the progress on clean industry demand but warned that public procurement alone is insufficient
 - General agreement that quotas are too low
- “Made in Europe” criteria cautiously welcome
- The absence of the steel label was noted, and drew calls for a swift implementation of the Ecodesign Delegated Act on steel
- Need for clear, swift, and harmonised implementation — the IAA is a useful but insufficient “first step” that must be followed by stronger measures.

[Why the EU’s new industry act is climate policy in disguise – POLITICO](#)

[Q&A: What the EU’s new industry and ‘Made in Europe’ rules mean for climate action - Carbon Brief](#)

What happens now?

1. Proposal is sent to Council and Parliament – they have the potential to make the draft stronger or weaker

Parliament: ITRE Committee drafts Parliament position. Christophe Grudler (Renew, FR) is the lead rapporteur.

Council: Working groups will draft Council position

2. Trilogues - informal three-way negotiations begin between the Parliament, Council, and Commission to reach a compromise text.

*Timeline is unclear – it seems the IAA will be prioritised, so it may take under a year.

The logo for Bellona, featuring the word "BELLONA" in a bold, black, serif font. The text is centered between two horizontal black lines. The logo is positioned in the upper left corner of the slide, partially overlapping a large teal abstract shape.

BELLONA

Two large, overlapping abstract shapes are positioned on the left side of the slide. The top shape is a teal color, and the bottom shape is a light grey color. They overlap in the center, creating a darker shade of grey.

Thank you!

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