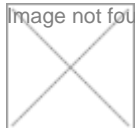


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11 June 2013 the European Commission released a memo on ensuring a future for steel in Europe. The memo analyses challenges the steel industry is facing and presents the European Commission's Action plan. It recalls the strategic importance of steel to the EU and its close links to many downstream industrial sectors such as automotive, construction, electronics. It emphasizes that steel making has a future in Europe and that a growth in demand for EU steel both within the EU and in third countries should be stimulated while cutting costs and increasing innovative and sustainable steel production.

The European steel industry is constantly developing new types of steel for specific applications. To further boost this competitive edge, there is a need to stimulate innovative R&D to a much greater extent than in the past, particularly the economically risky and very expensive pilot and demonstration phases. With its memo, the European Commission claims to give an adequate support, in the framework of Horizon 2020, to R&D demonstration and pilot projects for new technologies for cleaner, more resource and energy efficient technologies, including **Public-Private Partnerships** such as **SPIRE** (Sustainable Process Industry through Resource and Energy Efficiency) and the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET).

More information on the 'Action Plan for a competitive and sustainable steel industry in Europe' can be found [here](#).
