

## **PRESS RELEASE:**

### **The Crucial Role of Geology in the Energy Transition: The European Federation of Geologists Supports the EU Clean Industrial Deal**

**Brussels, 26 February 2025** – The European Union has presented the Clean Industrial Deal, an ambitious strategy aimed at combining decarbonisation with industrial competitiveness. This initiative particularly focuses on energy-intensive industries and the clean technologies sector, aiming to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources. The European Federation of Geologists (EFG), with its expertise in geosciences, recognises the crucial role geology plays in this transformational process.

#### **Key Points for the European Federation of Geologists:**

##### **1. Energy Transition and Natural Resources**

The EU strategy aims to reduce dependence on fossil fuels by encouraging investments in renewable energy, energy storage, and grid infrastructure. A key element of this transition is the "European Electric Grid Package," which will streamline energy planning and transportation between member states. Geology, with its expertise in natural resource management, will be essential in identifying the most suitable areas for building new energy infrastructures and CO<sub>2</sub> storage. In particular, geothermal energy can play an important role in making better use of local energy sources, and EFG has considerable expertise in harnessing this energy.

##### **2. Energy Supply Security**

The EU is addressing challenges related to the gas market, aiming to reduce price volatility through stricter regulation. A task force on the gas market will work to ensure transparency and efficiency. In this context, geologists can offer crucial support, leveraging their expertise to assess the availability and accessibility of natural resources required for the energy sector.

##### **3. Simplification of Energy Project Authorisations**

A significant obstacle to industrial decarbonisation and the construction of new infrastructure is the lengthy authorisation processes. With the introduction of the "Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act," the EU aims to streamline the permit granting procedures. In this regard, geological expertise will be vital in ensuring that energy projects are well-planned, sustainable, and safe.



**4. Digitalization and Environmental Data**

The EU has highlighted the importance of digitalisation in the energy sector, encouraging the use of geological, spatial, and environmental data for better grid planning and energy storage. Geology is essential for identifying suitable sites for energy storage and sustainable management of natural resources. The digitalisation of geological data will allow for more informed decision-making, accelerating the energy transition process.

**5. Circular Economy and Efficient Resource Use**

The EU strategy aims to maximise the use of Europe's natural resources, reduce reliance on imports, and minimise waste through a circular economy model. This goal aligns with the interests of the European Federation of Geologists, which promotes responsible resource management and the recovery of materials from industrial and urban sites.

**6. Funding and Incentives for Sustainable Projects**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has announced a pilot program to support renewable energy purchase agreements for industries. New rules will be introduced to encourage flexibility in energy contracts, providing stability for renewable energy projects. Geology will play a key role in identifying safe and suitable sites for storage infrastructure and renewable resources.

**The European Federation of Geologists is committed to supporting Europe's energy transition, recognising that geology is fundamental to the success of initiatives like the Clean Industrial Deal. Geologists' expertise is vital for:**

- Consulting and collaborating on renewable energy projects and natural resource management.
- The role of geology in energy infrastructure planning, including energy storage and subsurface monitoring for decarbonisation.
- The digitalisation of geological and environmental data as key tools for the energy transition.

The European Federation of Geologists is ready to work with European institutions and other stakeholders to ensure that the transition to a greener, more competitive Europe is sustainable and safe for future generations.