

PRESS RELEASE

European Federation of Geologists Responds to the Antwerp Declaration: The Subsurface is Key to Europe's Strategic Autonomy and Industrial Competitiveness

Brussels, 18 February 2026 — In response to the urgent call to action of the Antwerp Declaration, the European Federation of Geologists (EFG) underscores the fundamental and irreplaceable role that subsurface resources and geoscience expertise play in revitalizing Europe's industrial base and securing its strategic autonomy. The EFG, representing 50,000 geoscientists, welcomes the renewed focus on industrial competitiveness and highlights that a strong and resilient European industry starts beneath our feet.

The Antwerp Declaration, presented on 11 February 2026 by more than 1,300 companies from various industrial sectors, calls for bold action to address the high energy costs, unfair global competition, and regulatory burden that threaten the viability of industry in Europe. The EFG fully supports this call and emphasizes that the expertise of European geologists is essential to tackling these challenges head-on.

“Europe's industrial competitiveness is intrinsically linked to our ability to sustainably manage the vast resources found in our subsurface,” states the President of the European Federation of Geologists. “From the critical raw materials that power our clean technologies to the potential of geothermal energy and geological carbon storage, geologists are at the forefront of building a safer, cleaner, and more competitive European industry. Europe cannot decarbonise, digitalise, or defend its industrial base without a solid geological foundation.”

The geosciences sector already contributes over €200 billion annually to the EU's GDP. Geologists are crucial for:

- **Securing Critical Raw Materials:** The responsible assessment and extraction of minerals and metals within Europe is vital to reducing import dependency and strengthening supply chains for the green and digital transition.
- **Reducing Energy Costs:** The development of indigenous energy resources, such as geothermal energy, offers a clean, stable, and affordable energy source, while the geological storage of CO₂ and hydrogen is key to decarbonizing industrial sectors.
- **Driving Innovation and Resilience:** The sustainable management of water resources, the assessment of geological risks to protect infrastructure, and innovation in circular economy technologies are all areas where geological expertise is indispensable.

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The European Federation of Geologists urges EU leaders to fully integrate geoscience expertise into the development and implementation of the “Clean Industrial Deal” and the package of Emergency Industrial Policy Measures requested in the Antwerp Declaration. This includes creating a European mobile and qualified professional workforce, certifying competence and using common standards, strengthening national geological surveys and professional bodies, investing in geoscience education and training, and supporting research and innovation in the field of geosciences.

“The European industry is not asking for protection from change, but for the conditions to lead it,” concludes the President. “Europe's geological community is one of the key players to build a prosperous and sustainable future for European industry.”

About the European Federation of Geologists (EFG):

The European Federation of Geologists is a non-governmental organization that represents the geological profession across Europe. Founded in 1980, the EFG today has 28 national member associations representing nearly 45,000 geoscientists. The Federation is committed to promoting excellence in the application of geosciences, creating public awareness of its importance to society, and contributing to public safety, sustainable development, and the responsible use of natural resources.