



February 18, 2026

Without rapid implementation of the announced Battery Booster measures, Europe risks losing the ability to maintain industrial scale battery production

Cc: Mr. Stéphane Séjourné, Executive Vice-President, Commissioner for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
Mr. Wopke Hoekstra, Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth

Dear President von der Leyen,
Dear President Macron,
Dear Chancellor Merz,
Dear Prime Minister Sánchez,

As CEOs of the three remaining large European battery cell manufacturers ACC, PowerCo, and Verkor, we write to you with urgency and conviction. At the recent EU leaders' retreat focused on competitiveness, all of you underlined that Europe's economic strength is the foundation of its influence in the world. If Europe wants to remain strong, then the key technologies for decarbonising our industry and economy must be developed and produced here in Europe.

Today, this strength is at stake: in an increasingly competitive and geopolitically tense global landscape, the continent's chances to secure a resilient, competitive, and strategically autonomous battery industry are almost all gone. Over 50% of European battery manufacturing projects have been stopped, delayed or cancelled in just over one year.

We acknowledge and appreciate the European Commission's communication on Battery Booster Strategy of December 2025, which recognised the essential role of European battery production in safeguarding industrial competitiveness, energy security, and defence capabilities. However, while this was an important signal after almost one year of discussions, the gap between announcement and implementation is widening. Progress has been missing in the three months since the publication of the Battery Booster Strategy. Especially the design of the announced Battery Booster Facility to distribute the €1.5 billion in interest-free loans, with first tranches to reach companies foreseen for 2026, remains undisclosed.

Our companies are investing heavily in advanced manufacturing capacity, technology development, supply chain resilience, and workforce training. At the same time, as highlighted in the Volta Battery Report 2025, the global battery sector has reached unprecedented levels of scale and speed with costs falling sharply—particularly in China. There, manufacturing costs are significantly below and government funding is significantly above European levels, creating a widening cost gap that underscores the urgency for decisive policy action.

As we already stated in a joint call to action in September 2025, the European Commission and Member States have repeatedly emphasized the strategic importance of retaining core technologies such as battery cells within the EU. With 99 percent of global production still dominated by non-European players, Europe risks the competitiveness of its €800 billion automotive industry with batteries accounting for 30-40% of vehicle costs. It also risks losing critical know-how, innovation capacity, and industrial leadership, along with a market worth €250 billion annually. Our companies are committed to contributing to Europe's competitive strength. But without concrete steps to support European manufacturers to scale at a pace that matches global competitors, Europe will continue to lose ground. You announced that you won't let this happen. Don't let this happen.

If the Battery Booster Facility timeline slips further, if the loans fail to address today's needs, and if too little is made available through the European Competitiveness Fund for output-based production support from 2028 onwards, Europe will have no industrial-scale battery production.

We urge the Commission to:

1. Provide immediate clarity on the application process for the Battery Booster Facility
2. Launch the connected call without delay to ensure timely implementation
3. Ensure that Battery Booster funds support projects that increase European resilience and strategic autonomy of its industry, energy systems, and defence
4. Deliver the first payments beginning in 2026, as announced
5. Ensure that loans can be used during the ramp-up of *existing* projects and investments
6. Design milestones for payout and the conditions for payback in close cooperation and individually with each qualifying company
7. Guarantee independence of chemistry and applications to support industrialization across all technological pathways
8. Ensure that companies ramping up more than one European site can apply for each of them

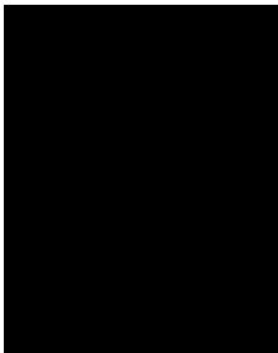
In fact, the forthcoming Industrial Accelerator Act represents a unique opportunity to recognize our batteries as essential components of a vibrant and resilient European industry by covering them under “Made in Europe” criteria. It is central that fulfilling these criteria creates tangible advantages to European automakers and other customers of the European battery cell manufacturers. Also, they should support the industry’s efforts for diversification.

We also call for reinforced support to Europe’s battery supply chain, ensuring that upstream and downstream capacities can scale alongside cell production and contribute to a resilient and competitive industrial base.

We urge you to act with speed and determination. A truly European battery cell industry - meaning European companies producing in Europe, not only Asian manufacturers producing on European soil - is essential for the continent’s industrial future, independence, and autonomy. Our factories and our employees stand ready to deliver. But without swift implementation of the Battery Booster measures, Europe risks seeing precisely those investments you seek to promote become worthless.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these points in detail and kindly request a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Frank Blome'.

Frank Blome
PowerCo

