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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry)
Subject:	Presentation by the European Commission : Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL establishing a framework of measures for the acceleration of industrial capacity and decarbonisation in strategic sectors and amending Regulations (EU) 2018/1724, (EU) 2024/1735 and (EU) 2024/3110 (agenda item 3) Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) meeting on 23 March 2026



INDUSTRIAL ACCELERATOR ACT

Proposal for a Regulation - COM(2026) 100

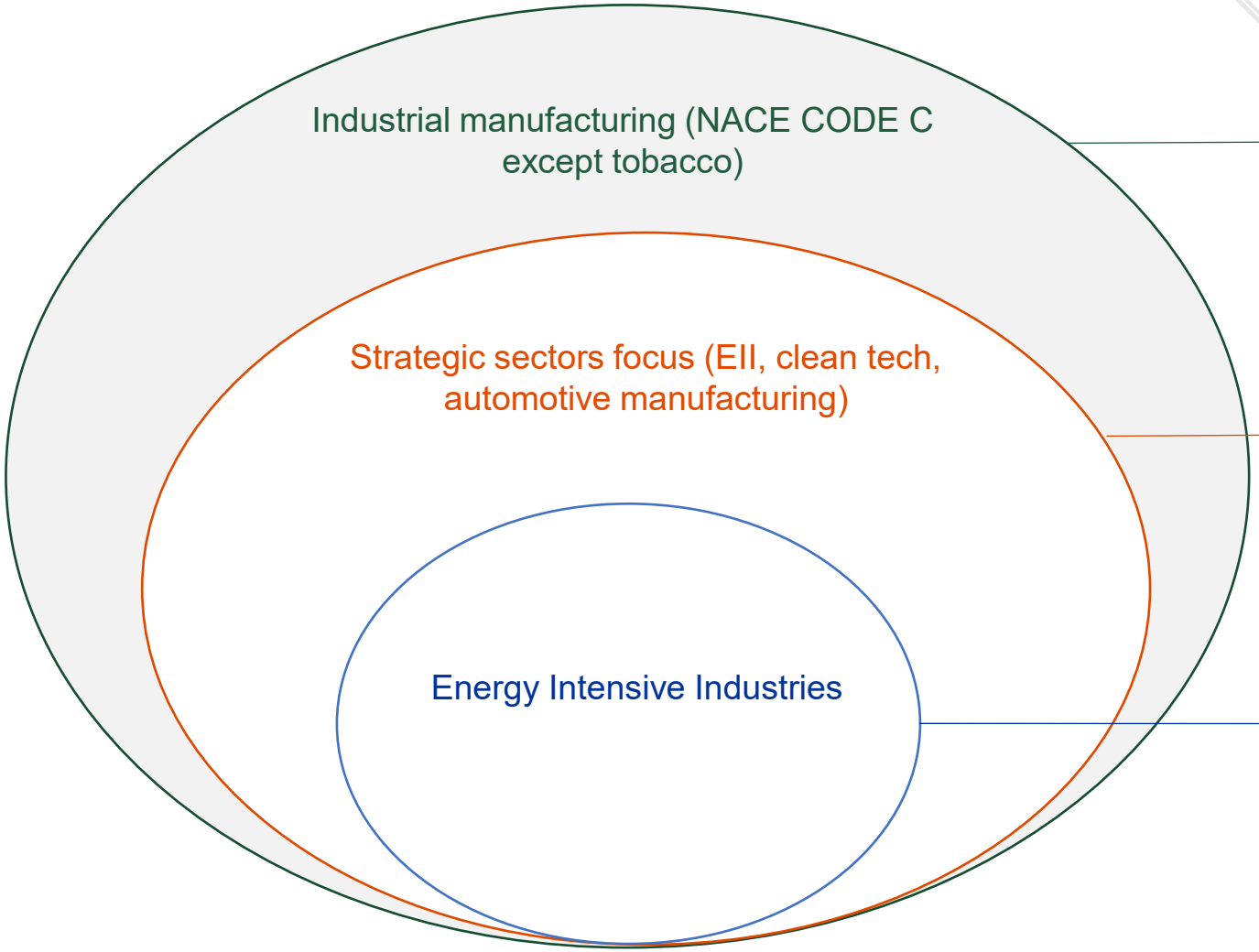
Industry Working Party

23 March 2026

European Commission

Legal proposal scope overview (permitting and areas)

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Articles 4 and 5

- ✓ Single Access Points
- ✓ One project – one submission

Articles 25, 26 and 27

- ✓ Focus attention for industrial clusters, however available for all industrial manufacturing sectors (except tobacco)
- ✓ Designation, enabling conditions and permitting areas

Article 6

- ✓ NZIA alignment
- ✓ RSEA toolbox

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Chapter II - Permitting

Impact assessment

Permitting process represent a **major challenge for project development.**

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Challenges	Envisaged measures
Long timelines (Average time required for IF projects:16.4 months. Almost half require 12-48 months.)	For EIIs, time limits for the permit-granting process and EIA Tacit approvals for certain administrative decisions Overriding public interest status when it exists in national law
Numerous authorities involved (5-10 per project)	Single points of contact (SPOC)
Unclear or insufficient details on the necessary information to be submitted	One application covering multiple permits, and early-stage public participation to accelerate approvals
Low levels of digitisation of the permit-granting process by MS Lack of administrative capacities in MS	Fully digitalised processes Improved administrative cooperation via digital tools

Source: 2025 IF report, OPC and targeted consultation

Permitting – Article 4

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Scope: Industrial Manufacturing Sector (NACE Code C, except tobacco)

Art 4 Single Access Points: digital submission point of permit applications at national level (i.e. for all relevant admin levels in permit process)

What?

- Automatic attribution of the application to relevant authorities
- Interactions with applicants
- Indicate status of the procedure
- Access to relevant decisions
- Compliance with applicable deadlines

How?

- interoperability and automated data exchange between competent authorities
- re-use of data and documents already held by public authorities
- a high level of cybersecurity, and integrity of information
- transparency and accountability of the permit-granting procedure

Enabled by the European Business Wallet, and other existing EU IT infrastructure (SDG)

European Business Wallets (EBW)

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A **harmonised digital solution** to enable companies and public sector bodies to identify, to authenticate and to exchange data in a secure and user-friendly way

Businesses will be able to digitally:

- **Check the identity** of others immediately and prove their own
- **Instantly create, store and share documents** they can trust, such as verified licences, permits, certificates and more.
- **Digitally sign**, timestamp or seal documents
- **Delegate** others to act on their behalf in a **legal capacity**
- **Communicate with other businesses or public administrations** via a secure and efficient channel.

When will the Business Wallets be available?

- ✓ **Proposal presented Nov 2025**
- ✓ **After adoption,** all levels of public administration across the EU, including EU institutions, bodies and agencies, will have **two years to implement** the use of the Business Wallets.
- ✓ Commission will work with Member States and the private sector to define the technical standards and requirements for Wallet

Single Digital Gateway(SDG) + Once-Only Technical System(OOTS)

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The SDG facilitates online access to information, administrative procedures, and assistance services that EU citizens and businesses may need in another EU country.

Following SDGR adoption in 2018, the COM and MS are developing a network of national portals to provide information for citizens and businesses on:

- ✓ how EU rules are applied in each EU country for cross-border users
- ✓ how to access these pertinent administrative procedures online
- ✓ available assistance services

- ✓ The SDG is supported by the Once-only technical system (“OOTS”).
- ✓ Enables the **cross-border automated exchange of evidence** to help citizens and businesses conduct administrative procedures online.
- ✓ Significantly eases and speeds up the cross-border administrative procedures covered by the SDGR (Annex II).

Article 33

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Amendments to Single Digital Gateway Regulation

Annex I SDGR: list of **information areas** to be provided online subject to quality requirements

- IAA: information on permit-granting procedures for industrial manufacturing projects

Annex I SDGR: list of **administrative procedures** to be offered fully online

- IAA amendment: permit-granting procedures related to industrial manufacturing projects

Permitting – Article 5

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Scope: Industrial Manufacturing Sector (NACE Code C, except tobacco)

Art 5 Permit-granting procedure *"One project-one submission"*: single application covering all permits required.

- Coordination of permit granting procedure by a competent authority, but *enabled by digitalisation (Art 4 Single access point)*
  - Flexibility in the processing: one decision or combination of individual decisions
- 45 days for authorities to check completeness of application +30 days for missing information

Not applicable where sectoral legislation already exists (e.g. NZIA) (Lex specialis vs lex generalis).

Permitting – Article 6

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Scope: Energy-intensive Industries (Annex I - reference to NACE Codes)

Background

- EII decarbonisation projects in NZIA subject to two limitations:
  - Restricted list of EIIs
  - "P*art of the supply chain of a net-zero technology*"
- Creates *uneven level playing field* between EII projects

Article 6

- Alignment under NZIA:
  - ✓ Same definition of 'energy intensive decarbonisation projects'
  - ✓ Single Point of Contact (SPOC), 18 months timelines, etc [Chapter II, Section II]
- Industrial decarbonisation projects benefit from Annex I from RSEA:
  - ✓ Tacit approval intermediate stages, not applicable to environmental assessments or MS where principle doesn't exist
  - ✓ Expedited dispute settlement
  - ✓ Public interest consideration

RSEA: Regulation on speeding up environmental assessments

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Chapter V – Industrial Manufacturing Acceleration Areas

Impact assessment

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Difficulty to access resources (e.g. inputs and funding). Market uncertainty was identified as the top risk.

Challenges	Suggested measures
Recurrent issue for decarbonising industrial facilities is **securing a timely connection to the energy grid.** Lack of energy infrastructure for projects.	Permitting at the geographical cluster Faster permit-granting procedures with priority status for administrative procedures
Broader EU funding landscape remains complex to access and fragmented	Better access to funding. Facilitating access to grid and relevant energy infrastructure

Source: OPC and targeted consultation

Article 25: Designation of Industrial Manufacturing Areas

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(1) MS to designate at least one Area

- To cluster manufacturing projects in strategic sectors (Annex I), after other manufacturing activities can be added
- AND inform the Commission within 30 days on the designation

(2) Designation based on

- Impact on security of supply
- Acceleration capacity and synergies with other Union initiatives (e.g. NZIA Valleys)
- SMEs and SMCs that benefit
- Regional development

(3) When designating the Areas

- Define geographical scope
- Prioritise:
  - Locations without significant environmental effect
  - Outside Natura 2000
  - Artificial and built surfaces, industrial sites, brownfield sites and existing Strategic Projects
- Take climate risks into account

(4) Further considerations:

- Infrastructural needs and availability of low-carbon energy
- Financing, supply chain and skills needs
- Need for depollution
- R&I needs
- Location specific information

Article 26: Enabling conditions – Member States to provide the following facilitations (as appropriate)

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Financing

- Streamline internal funding procedures, align with EU programmes and State aid rules
- Prioritise SMEs

R&I

- Drive competitiveness and tech leadership

Energy

- Energy needs analysis (3-yearly)
- Align network development plans (investments) with energy needs

Skills

- Skills development
- Skills gap monitoring and best practices exchanges via Industrial Forum expert group
- Leverage synergies with Pact for Skills

Raw Materials

- Strengthen raw materials supply chain coordination between areas via the European Critical Raw Materials Board
- Support entities to participate in EU joint purchasing

Article 27: Permit-granting procedures in areas

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Aggregated baseline permit

Member States

Prior to issuing aggregated baseline permit:

- **Necessary assessments**, including environmental assessments, planning procedures and evaluations applicable at the level of the area.
- **Mandatory Strategic Environmental Assessment**
- Issue **area-specific permit** (aggregated baseline permit): permits and administrative decisions required for the industrial manufacturing projects

Economic operators

- Obtain **only** additional permits outside of the scope of the aggregated baseline permit i.e. **permits and authorisations that are installation specific** (EIA, etc)
- Projects benefit from Annex I from Regulation on speeding up environmental assessments (RSEA)
  - ✓ **Tacit approval intermediate stages**
  - ✓ **Expedited dispute settlement**
  - ✓ **Public interest consideration**

Industrial Manufacturing Acceleration Areas (IMAAs)

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Benefits for projects

IMAAs	Net Zero Acceleration Valleys
Scope: Industrial manufacturing but focus on EIIs, automotive and net-zero	**Scope:** Net zero tech, EII decarbonisation projects and CCS
Obligatory one per MS • Analysis of energy needs fed to TSOs • Additional considerations for skills and CRM	*Voluntary* • MS plan with support measures (infrastructure, skills, etc)
Strategic environmental assessment	
Tacit approval intermediate stages, public interest consideration and dispute settlement	
Aggregated baseline permit	*Single Point of Contact*

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Thank you



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