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[Press release](#) | 11.06.2013

## Steel industry

### EU Commission proposals fail to plot way forward for steel industry

The European Commission today published its long-awaited action plan for the steel industry in Europe. Commenting on the proposals, Green industrial policy spokesperson **Reinhard Bütikofer** stated:

*"This action plan is a disappointment. Despite no shortage of rhetoric, there is no realistic goal and no vision for addressing the crisis in the steel industry.*

*"The European steel sector has a clear demand-side problem, with neither the construction sector nor the automotive industry able to rescue it. A clear focus on sustainable infrastructure development, such as from the wind energy sector, could bring hope. Unfortunately, such a strategy is glaringly absent in the action plan. How can the steel industry move forward if its future markets are ignored?*

*"Instead, the Commission has used the action plan to orchestrate a broadside on EU climate policies. This shameless opportunism is completely off the mark.*

*"The steel industry cannot be made fit for the future with a policy dependent on access to new subsidies, without tying subsidies to strict criteria for innovation. A lack of regulation and an environmental dumping strategy are also wrongheaded. Ignoring the economic and environmental realities and rushing headlong into shale gas extraction is also a dead-end approach.*

*"The European Commission has failed to grasp the opportunity and place the future competitiveness of Europe's steel industry firmly on the basis of sustainability."*

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Reinhard Bütikofer

Member

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