

CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe Policy Manifesto

A Strategic Vision for the European Industry

Executive Summary

The CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe Policy Manifesto outlines our strategic vision for the European taps and valves industry and the EU, emphasizing on sustainability, innovation, and competitiveness.

CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe, representing the industry's collective voice, aims to engage with EU and international policymakers and stakeholders to drive the sector's growth while addressing key challenges for the society and the planet.

This document highlights our commitment to quality, environmental responsibility, and technological advancement, serving as a roadmap for our future actions.

Key priorities include promoting the creation of efficient innovation ecosystems, ensuring a just green and digital transformation, Water-Smart Strategy, promoting harmonizing standards for quality and safety, advocating for regulatory harmonization and self-regulation initiatives, reskilling workforce and providing financial support for SMEs. Through these initiatives, CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe strives to ensure a sustainable and competitive future for the taps and valves industry in Europe.

Scope of this Document

This manifesto serves as a strategic document for CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe, outlining our vision, mission, and key priorities to guide the industry and the EU towards a sustainable, innovative, and competitive future. It is designed to be a foundational tool for engaging with EU policymakers, industry stakeholders, and the public, emphasizing the essential role of the taps and valves sector in achieving Europe's economic and environmental goals.

Who We Are

CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe, is the leading industry association representing the European sanitary taps and building and industrial valves sectors. Established in 1959, we unite national associations and companies under a common umbrella to advocate for the interests of our industry at European level.

With our expertise, reliability, and responsible leadership we are enabling a sustainable, innovative, and thriving taps and valves industry in Europe that will create value for the economy, the people and the planet.

Taps & Valves Industry Overview

The taps and valves industry is a critical component of Europe's industrial infrastructure, integral to all fluidic networks, from domestic water supply systems to high-risk industrial processes. These products are not merely supplementary; they are essential to the efficiency, safety, and sustainability of various operations, ensuring tightness, user safety, and environmental protection, while enhancing energy & resource efficiency.

- **Fundamental Role:** *Taps and valves are indispensable across all fluidic applications, playing a vital role in maintaining process efficiency and safety.*
- **Sustainability Imperative:** *Efficient, reliable, repairable and long-lasting taps and valves are key to sustainable fluidic system.*

- **Quality and Responsibility:** European manufacturers are committed to delivering high-quality products that respect both customer needs and environmental standards.



The European Taps & Valves industry represents 50,000+ employees with a production value of more than €11 billion

CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe contribution and demands

CEIR, the European industry association, ensure that our industry remains a cornerstone of Europe's sustainable and competitive economy by:

- **Generate and Disseminate Knowledge:** We develop programs and tools to help the industry stay abreast with policy changes and regulatory and market requirements.
- **Technical Expertise & Industry Standards:** We lead in establishing technical, environmental, and social standards at both European and international levels. collaborates with international institutions to set harmonized regulations and technical standards for taps, valves, actuators, and hoses.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** We maintain open, constructive dialogues with EU stakeholders and institutions to drive the industry forward.
- **International Relationships:** We actively working on fostering international cooperation to advance industry standards and practices globally.
- **Promotion of Sustainability:** We actively advocate for energy savings and environmental stewardship with tangible action like the promotion of the self-regulatory Unified Water Label initiative.

CEIR - Taps & Valves Europe urges EU Institutes, to prioritise Europe's competitive edge by spearheading industrial transformation.

We need to strengthen industry through fair market practices, simplified administrative processes, rigorous quality and safety standards, dynamic innovation ecosystems, and a robust digital and green transformation.

Achieving strategic autonomy and economic competitiveness is paramount to ensuring Europe's resilience and citizens well-being.

CEIR – Taps & Valves Europe Strategic Policy Priorities

1. Research and Innovation

- Allocate more **resources** to Horizon Europe, InvestEU, Digital Europe, etc and create new programmes to support industry in developing green & smart products and innovative solutions in fluid management.
- Create **innovation ecosystems** for easy access to innovation that address real market needs.

2. Support Green and Digital Transformation

Water

- Adopt an ambitious and holistic **European Water-Smart Strategy** with a strategic political accountability within the Commission.
- Promote **smarter cities** with **water and energy efficient buildings** and affordable houses for everyone.
- Promote **self-regulatory initiatives** like the voluntary **unified water label** scheme.
- Encourage policies allowing the use of treated greywater in domestic applications, **promoting water reuse and conservation.**

Product

- Encourage policies and support measures **enhancing product durability**, reducing waste, and promoting a circular economy.
- Utilize the **Digital Product Passport** (DPP) to efficiently communicate essential product information, to enhance transparency, reduce administrative burden and support informed decision-making.
- Develop a **common language and standards for environmental impact assessments**, like Product Category Rules (PCR) and Environmental Product Declarations (EPD).

Processes

- Promote environmental policies that support the manufacturing industry in **reducing its carbon footprint and mitigating climate change impacts.**
- Secure access to clean, stable, and economical energy sources
- Provide **incentives for clean technologies.**
- Promote collaboration between industry and government to develop and deploy renewable energy sources and **energy-efficient solutions.**

3. Internal Market and Regulatory Framework

- Establish clear, consistent standards across Europe through **harmonized regulations**, to ensure **product quality and safety.**
- Strengthen the **Market Surveillance** Regulation to ensure all products in the EU market meet high safety and quality standards.
- **Simplify administrative processes** to **reduce bureaucracy** and facilitate compliance with regulations.

Hazardous substances regulations

- Promote a **risk-based approach** in regulatory decision-making, particularly regarding hazardous substances regulations like **REACH / RoHS.**
- **Improve transparency** to create a fair level field with **feasible requirements and predictability (transition period)** in the distribution of goods, ensuring fair competition among businesses.
- **Implement a structured transition period** to facilitate the adaptation of businesses to new regulations.

4. Industrial Strategy and Competitiveness

Holistic Policy Approach

- Develop **integrated policies** that **balance** environmental goals with economic considerations.
- Promote **both short-term actions and long-term** strategies for effective decarbonization.
- The policy should be **concise and clear**, with a few key points that are **easy to understand**.
- Focus on **inspiring and enabling sustainable practices** rather than imposing restrictions. Use **incentives** such as favourable tax regimes to promote sustainable behaviours.

Enhance Stakeholder Consultations:

- **Foster regular consultations with industry stakeholders** to improve the regulatory environment under a Better Regulation Agenda, to **ensure transparency and inclusivity**.
- Engage engineers and other stakeholders early in the policy-making process to ensure practicality and clarity.
- Promote Industry Best Practices: Encourage the **adoption of best practices** within the industry through initiatives aligned with the European Industrial Strategy.

Support SMEs Growth:

- **Ease market access and reduce barriers** for businesses.
- Implement an EU SME Strategy to **provide financial support, reduce administrative burdens**, and enhance market access for small and medium-sized enterprises.

5. Skills and Employment

Workforce Motivation and Development:

- Encourage future workers to join the industry by promoting its attractiveness and career opportunities.
- Facilitate access to training programs and initiatives to upskill and reskill the workforce in line with industry needs.

6. Global Trade and Cooperation

International Cooperation:

- **Design policies** that are exportable and **can be applied globally** to foster international cooperation.
- Leverage the benefits of global green transition efforts to enhance sustainability.
- Foster international relationships to advance industry standards and practices globally.
- **Harmonize global standards** to promote **fair competition** and expand market opportunities
- **Ensure that products entering the market are safe, reliable, and adhere to established quality benchmarks.**