

Industrial Competitiveness & Strategic Autonomy

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Panel Overview

- Europe's clean industrial future will depend on its ability to maintain global competitiveness while reducing strategic dependencies in critical technologies, energy systems and supply chains. Hydrogen is increasingly recognised as a cornerstone of industrial decarbonisation, energy security and economic resilience.
- As global competition intensifies, particularly from North America, China and the Middle East, Europe faces important decisions about how to strengthen domestic manufacturing capability, accelerate innovation, secure critical raw materials, and scale hydrogen production and infrastructure deployment.
- This session will explore how hydrogen can contribute to Europe's industrial renaissance, support strategic autonomy, and reinforce economic resilience while maintaining international competitiveness.

Key Discussion Themes

1. Hydrogen as an Industrial Competitiveness Enabler

Decarbonising energy-intensive industries while maintaining global competitiveness.

Reducing energy cost volatility through indigenous renewable hydrogen production.

Supporting Europe's clean technology leadership.

2. Strategic Autonomy and Supply Chain Resilience

Reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels.

Securing critical materials and manufacturing capacity for electrolysers, fuel cells and storage technologies.

Building resilient European hydrogen value chains.

3. Scaling European Manufacturing

Opportunities for electrolyser, balance-of-plant and hydrogen equipment manufacturing.

Creating industrial clusters and regional hydrogen valleys.

The role of SMEs and industrial innovation ecosystems.

4. Investment and Market Signals

What investors need to unlock large-scale deployment.

Balancing industrial policy, state aid and international competition.

Enabling demand through lead markets and procurement policies.

5. Ireland's Opportunity

Leveraging renewable energy resources and strategic location.

Developing export-oriented hydrogen supply chains.

Positioning Ireland within Europe's future hydrogen economy during and beyond the EU Presidency.

Panel Chair Questions

Opening Question

1. Europe is facing growing pressure on energy costs, industrial competitiveness and geopolitical resilience. Where can hydrogen provide the greatest strategic advantage over the next decade?
2. What are the biggest barriers preventing hydrogen manufacturing and deployment from scaling at the pace Europe requires?
3. Is Europe currently doing enough to compete with the incentives being offered through the US Inflation Reduction Act and major investments in Asia?
4. What policy certainty or market signals would most effectively unlock private capital for hydrogen projects?
5. How can Europe retain leadership in electrolyser manufacturing while competing against lower-cost global suppliers?
6. What investments in infrastructure are critical to ensuring Europe develops a secure and resilient hydrogen market?
7. If you could implement one measure tomorrow to strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness through hydrogen, what would it be?



The Association for Energy, Mobility, Industry & Community

Hydrogen Ireland