

HYDROGEN EUROPE MANIFESTO

For the 2024 European elections

February 2024

Across the world, our life chances – any individual's opportunities to improve their quality of life – are being threatened. Conflict and climate change threaten the life chances of many people. Supporting technologies and concepts that can mitigate or solve the current problems is a top priority. Hydrogen is one such technology.

Hydrogen is the smallest molecule in the universe but has huge potential to change our world. The way in which we manufacture goods, move people, power our energy needs, and grow crops can be made cleaner and more sustainable. **Hydrogen can bring strong industrial development globally and can save jobs in Europe that would otherwise be lost.**

The EU has embarked on the important mission to decarbonise its economy and develop a sustainable, emission-free model of society. With the Green Deal, the Union has produced the tools that can shape a climate-friendly future. We are not alone on this path. The United States, China, the Arabian Peninsula, India, Brazil, Australia, Namibia and many more countries all strive to be champions of decarbonisation. While their adopted timelines are longer than ours, we should not doubt their determination to achieve their goals.



Global competition and our own European ambition to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 mean that we must do a lot better, and do it faster, after the European elections in 2024. The coming mandate of the European Parliament and the next Commission will be the ones charged with reaching our 2030 and sustainably following up towards the 2040 timeframe. **There is only one generation to go before 2050.** The impetus set by the European Parliament elected in June 2024, and the Commission it will support, will determine whether we achieve not only our climate goals, but also whether we can set global trends and standards for decarbonisation.

Hydrogen is one of the vectors of this necessary change contributing with 15–20% of the final energy demand by 2050 (as recently presented by the European Commission in the 2040 Climate strategy). It can transform industries and drastically reduce their CO₂ emissions. It can revolutionise air, maritime and road transportation. It can store variable renewable electricity and bring stability and flexibility to an electricity grid transporting ever increasing quantities of energy. And it can help with heating and cooling buildings without carbon emissions.

Hydrogen is not a miracle molecule – but it can do what electricity can't and it is therefore complementary to a renewables-based energy system. Electricity and hydrogen are both urgent and vital prerequisites for the achievement of climate goals, for the retention of Europe's industrial base and competitiveness, and for European energy security. Without both in large quantities, there will be no transition away from fossil fuels and dependencies on third countries. Yet with both of them, Europe can position itself as the global lead, doing good not only for climate and economic sustainability, but also for European research, industrial development, and jobs.



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Europe has tremendous potential for hydrogen, regarding both its production and use. For our own production, and for imports, we need to adopt regulations which fit into global trends. Our regulations must correspond to the needs of European industry and provide planning security to off-takers.

Policy positions decided and implemented during the next legislature of the European Parliament will make this vision of a just future for all a reality – or not. This is why we want to contribute to the electoral debate with a few important suggestions. We believe those suggestions contain elements vital to the success of a green transformation. We want Europe to inspire and lead this transformation.

Our manifesto outlines **16 key actions and policy recommendations** the new Commission and European Parliament should support to ensure the objectives laid out in the Green Deal are met on time with a thriving European industrial base creating jobs and growth for Europeans. To achieve this, Hydrogen Europe calls upon European policy makers to speed up the deployment of hydrogen via:

**Europe has
tremendous potential
for hydrogen**



1

AN EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR A COMPETITIVE, RESILIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

Develop a **strong manufacturing base in Europe for hydrogen technologies, their components and materials** addressing critical dependencies, with the support of new funding opportunities to derisk investments and coherent market access approaches.

Foster the **competitiveness of the European hydrogen producers** in a globally interconnected world, by accelerating the deployment of renewable energy sources, by creating a level playing field through sustainability requirements, the CBAM, common certification and standards.

Frame the EU industrial policy actions of the new legislative term in a concrete and ambitious **EU Clean Industrial Plan** that promotes a business case for energy intensive and critical industries and establishes indicators for clean techs and their value chains.

Assign an **EC Vice-President exclusively responsible for Industrial Policy**, in charge of the new EU Clean Industrial Plan and able to coordinate the actions needed to consolidate EU competitiveness. The Parliament should create an **intergroup** to follow up on the EU Clean Industrial Plan.

Strengthen a **competitive workforce that creates jobs in Europe through an H2 academy** focusing on skills the hydrogen sector needs. This can be ensured by providing adequate public support and coordination of EU initiatives (Ex: Net Zero Industry Academies and skills projects in the hydrogen sector financed by the Clean H2 Partnership and Erasmus +).



2

A THRIVING EUROPEAN MARKET FOR CLEAN HYDROGEN

Accelerate development of a hydrogen market through the **innovation fund and the hydrogen bank** with auctions that support investment decisions by reducing risk and covering the price gap between production cost and the price that consumers can afford in a global competitive market

Create an **investment friendly regulatory framework for all clean hydrogen production technologies** that are aligned with the 2050 Climate Neutral strategy of the EU. The European commission should swiftly adopt a definition of low-carbon hydrogen that encompasses all production pathways - as long as they meet strict emissions criteria. And it should review the definition of RFNBO by 2026, making it a lot more pragmatic.

Accelerate **deployment of renewables** enabling large production of reliable and competitive hydrogen and derivatives in Europe, laying the pathway towards 2040 climate framework.

Foster global certification schemes for a fair trade of clean hydrogen globally, enabling the mutual recognition of different pathways (RFNBOs, low carbon fuels) across geographies.

Ensure **rapid and the most optimal implementation of REDIII H2 targets** at national level, in particular in energy intensive industry, steel, chemicals, ammonia sector and refineries.

Create a **level playing field for hydrogen technologies in mobility applications** through EU legislation and specific windows of Innovation fund (e.g. more support for e-fuels in aviation).



A PAN-EUROPEAN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT PROVIDES RESILIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY TO THE ENERGY SYSTEM

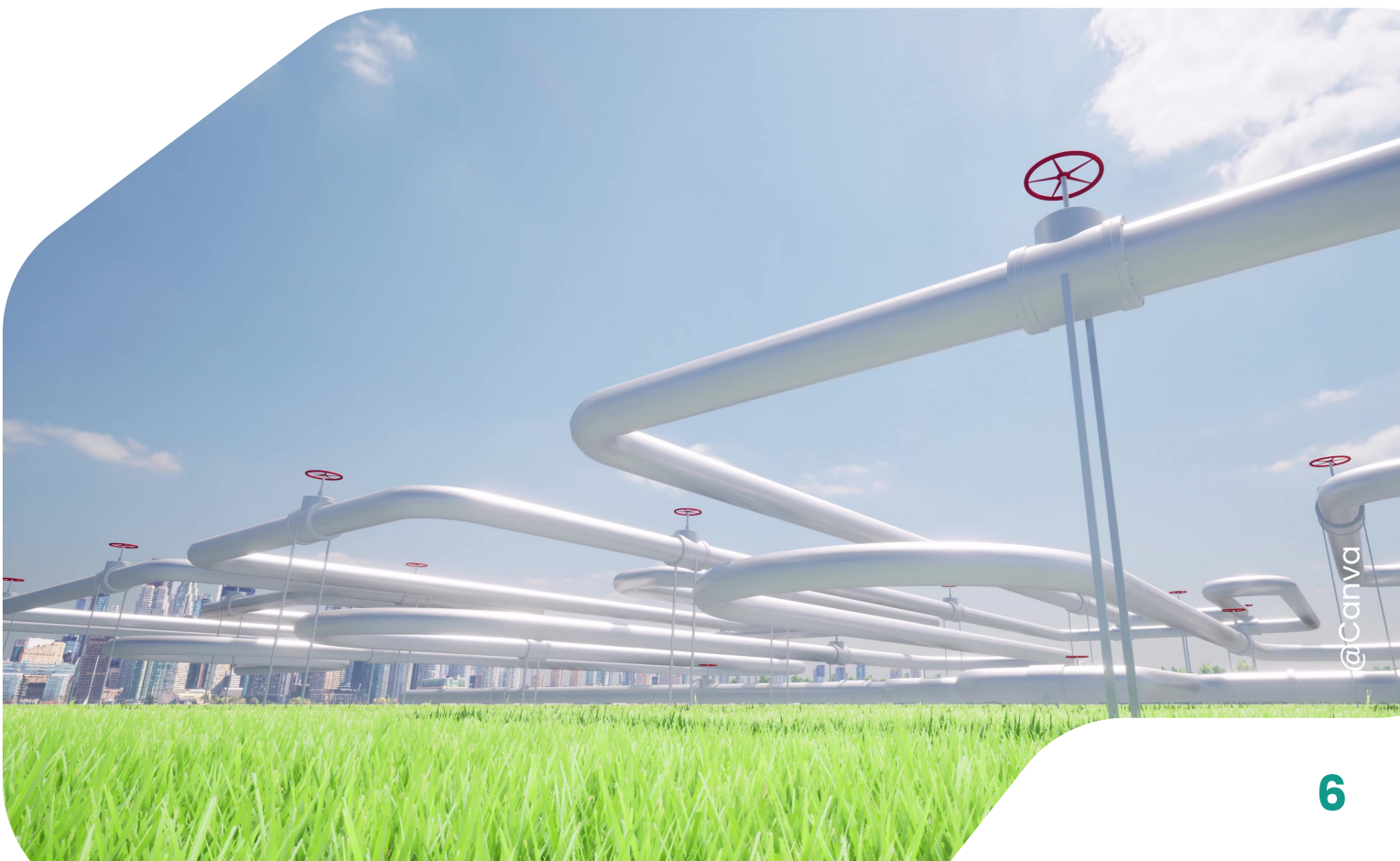
▶ The European Commission should establish a **European Hydrogen Grid Strategy**, setting clear goals, accelerating the roll-out of PCI (Projects of Common Interest), and contributing to the removal of existing barriers and unlocking EU funding.

▶ The EU should help create the **European Network of Hydrogen Network Operators (ENNOH)** as soon as possible to lead the development of the Hydrogen Network Development plan, coordinate national efforts and closely cooperate with the electricity and natural gas infrastructure operators.

▶ **The EU should develop a comprehensive storage strategy.** Such a strategy ought to identify the flexibility needs for short and long-term periods, ensure complementary storage solutions (such as batteries, hydro pump power, and underground hydrogen storage) are all developed on time and at the volumes required. An EU target for underground hydrogen storage should be set along with a clear legislative framework.

▶ The EU should move **from setting binding targets to fast deployment of hydrogen fuelling infrastructure and zero emission fleets.**

▶ **The EU should work on an Integrated Offshore infrastructure Plan** that complements the benefits of both power grids and hydrogen pipelines (also offshore) to accelerate and increase the contribution of offshore renewable energy sources.





Hydrogen
Europe



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