

MANIFESTO

MORE EUROPE, GREENER AND MORE COMPETITIVE

Spanish companies support a green and competitive European economy



The **European Green Deal** was approved in 2020 as a **growth strategy** with broad social and political consensus, aiming to **leverage the economic, industrial, and employment opportunities** derived from a green and digital transition, without leaving anyone behind.

Recently, there have been **proposals** aimed at **slowing down sustainability policies in the European Union**, based on a perception that associates them with high costs or limitations to economic growth.

Today, we can confirm that, thanks to **digitalization** and the **technological revolution in clean energies**—renewables, batteries, heat pumps—the decarbonization of the energy base of a large part of the economy is already competitive, and in hard-to-abate sectors, investment in innovation is leading to the development of very promising technologies.

This process also provides **greater energy independence for Europe** and **more and better jobs**. The International Energy Agency estimates that two green jobs are created for every job lost in the fossil economy -in Spain, the favourable balance would be greater as we are a country that imports almost all of its hydrocarbons- and that **one-third of European GDP growth** in the last two years has been due to **clean energy**.

The **transition to a green economy** is an **unstoppable trend worldwide**, which can be accelerated or slowed down, but **cannot be reversed**. In **China**, more renewables are being installed and more electric vehicles are being sold than in the rest of the world combined; in response, the United States has launched the IRA, the largest economic stimulus package in its history aimed at the clean industry, and the same is being done by the **United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, and India**, among other countries. In the **EU, the Net-Zero Industry Act** has just been approved, whose implementation should represent a huge opportunity for Europe and, above all, for Spain.

This new economy will lead to a **true technological and industrial revolution**, as it will require new clean technologies and innovative processes, and **the first to lead and gain competitiveness** will clearly have **global industrial leadership** (“the first mover advantage”) that **lays the foundations for a more prosperous society**.



In this context, the Spanish companies grouped in the **Spanish Green Growth Group** understand that it is time to **reaffirm the commitment to a green and competitive economy in Europe**. To this end, we call for:

1

A decisive commitment to the European Single Market. We believe that the only way to compete globally and successfully address the planned challenges (competitiveness, supply security, sustainability...) is to have a large European market that allows scaling solutions and forging robust competitive advantages.

2

Strengthening European leadership in the green economy. Not only for environmental awareness but for a clear strategic interest in assuming industrial leadership in all global cutting-edge technologies, which will directly benefit citizens with lower and secure prices, and more and better jobs. All of this will contribute to a more just society that leaves no one behind.

3

A policy framework that fosters a conducive environment for present and planned investments, providing certainty to economic agents, with appropriate incentive schemes and streamlining administrative and regulatory processes.

4

Financial and economic instruments that allow **SMEs** to also take advantage of all the opportunities associated with this transition.

We need a **STRONGER, GREENER, and MORE COMPETITIVE EUROPE**.