

# METALS FOR A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE

View of ABVV-Metaal

# ABVV-METAAL AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Report by Ugent professor B. Mazijn (2013): “Towards a new industrialization for the metal-industry – a circular economy in the context of sustainable development.”
- For the metal sector in Belgium/Flanders, the transition to a circular economy is a necessity.
  - Increasing demand for (rare) metals creates price and supply uncertainties. A circular economy can limit our dependence to some extent.
  - Ecological aspect – circular economy can result in decoupling (between economic growth and the use of resources/emission of GHG)
  - Can contribute to a renewed industrialization in Belgium/Flanders
- Tool to map the vulnerability of companies in terms of the supply of raw materials/metals (<http://kwetsbaarheid.abvvmetaal.be/>)
- Crucial that this transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy takes place in a socially just manner.



# NON-FERRO AND THE ROAD TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY IN 2050

- Employment and economic/social development are our priorities
- Non-ferro industry in Europe → 500.000 workers and 120 billion revenue.
- An important cluster of non-ferrous companies is active in Belgium (the Kempen region), with a lot of employment (+- 8.000 workers) → All are active in the refining, recycling and transformation of materials of the future.
- It is also a very innovative sector (R&D) where a lot is happening today (Umicore, Aurubis, Campine, ...)
- The work that is done by the workers there is often still dirty, heavy and hard. But in recent years there has been a positive evolution (also with regard to the impact on the environment).

# NON-FERRO AND THE ROAD TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY IN 2050

- Link with the car industry in Belgium is important
  - Electrification, industrial symbiosis, creating ecosystems, guaranty the supply of metals, ...
- There is still a lot of work to be done. We therefore support the conclusion of the study to strongly commit to an industrial policy, both at European and Belgian level, to strengthen the metal industry.
  - Ambitious circular economy policy!
  - Climate-friendly investments!
  - Green electricity production!
  - ...
- For us as a union crucial to be involved in all these development (on all levels).
  - Importance of social dialogue – workers are central in the transition.
  - Focus on employment, (re-)training but also on quality of work and purchasing power remain our priorities. **Also during the transition to a climate-neutral Europe.**