

Answer to the consultation on the Regulation proposal on batteries and waste of batteries 2020/0353(COD)

France Industrie welcomes the European Commission's proposal for a regulation and its integrated approach as it will allow much more efficient recycling of batteries used within the European Union. This initiative will also enable the **emergence of a genuine European expertise** through the development of a **competitive and sustainable value chain for batteries in Europe** in line with the new EU Industrial Strategy.

France Industrie welcomes the “**battery passport**” (article 65). It will promote batteries recycling inside the EU and consolidate EU companies’ competitiveness. Some technical adjustments could however be brought to the proposal in order to avoid complexification of the industrial manufacturing and recycling processes.

Instability, low predictability and complexity of the regulatory framework are important obstacles to industry competitiveness. France Industrie calls to clarify the roles of the actors all along the value chain, avoid to multiply the number of comitology acts & impose too short deadlines for their implementation and conduct a careful assessment on the actual needs for any additional burden. Confidentiality of data should also be carefully respected.

France Industrie advises to include some **flexibility** in the regulation approach on the set targets in order to **foster circular economy**, regarding *i.a.* the evolution and availability of technologies for manufacturing and recycling in the future and the potential technical limits of industrial processes, the relevance of certain criteria (article 8) and figures of vehicles and batteries to be actually recycled in the future.

Furthermore, parts of the regulation proposal are only focusing on specific battery technologies that are currently leading the market with the risk of preventing more innovative technologies from **properly entering the market**.

Carbon leakage should be prevented. Therefore, in article 58, the definition of equivalent conditions shall be clearly detailed and strict and serious control taken.

The provisions on **hazardous substances** should be consistent with the existing regulatory framework (REACH) and avoid the creation of an additional and parallel process. Measures related to hazardous substances should be taken thanks to a thorough and scientific-based approach, key enabler to foster the industry competitiveness.

France Industrie acknowledges the necessity to comply with rules for the **responsible sourcing of materials in the global battery value chain**. In particular, It notes the legislative proposal on due diligence to be presented later in 2021 and calls to avoid any double regulation.

France Industrie and its members will actively contribute to the debates during the legislative process in support to the European Parliament, Council and European Commission.

France Industrie is the trade association representing French manufacturing industry. It brings together 25 sectoral industry federations and the Presidents of 44 major private and public companies operating in all industrial sectors. France Industrie is the reference point for the public authorities on all cross-cutting issues relating to industry: competitiveness, employment, ecological transition, innovation and digital, European industrial policy and the attractiveness of the regions.