

PRESS RELEASE - for immediate release
Federation of Aluminium Consumers in Europe - FACE
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PRESS RELEASE

FACE AT ARABAL 2025: GLOBAL TRENDS AND EUROPEAN LESSONS FROM A STRATEGIC METAL

FACE, the Federation of Aluminium Consumers in Europe, participated in ARABAL 2025, one of the world's foremost aluminium events, held in Dubai from 4 to 6 November and organised by the Gulf Aluminium Council.

FACE was chosen as the association to represent Europe at this high-level gathering, joining leading industrial players, policymakers and experts from across the globe to discuss the sector's strategic challenges and opportunities.

In his address, Mario Conserva, Secretary General of FACE, presented an overview of the European market and the broader global dynamics shaping the aluminium industry.

"Aluminium remains the central metal of modern industry," Conserva said. "It continues to grow despite structural challenges in the new global industrial economy. It is vital for the energy transition — yet for this very reason, it also lies at the crossroads of geopolitical and sustainability challenges."

Global demand for aluminium is rising steadily, driven by the automotive, renewable energy, construction and advanced electronics sectors. However, structural imbalances persist: production remains concentrated in regions with cheaper and less sustainable energy, while Europe's primary capacity continues to shrink due to high and volatile energy costs. Today, the EU must import over 85% of its primary aluminium needs, increasing its exposure to supply and price risks.

At the same time, the Gulf region's role as a producer of increasingly low-carbon metal is expanding, underlining the importance of strong Euro–Gulf cooperation. Conserva stressed the need for more pragmatic policies to enable this collaboration:

"Europe's CBAM policy, though built on the right intentions, remains complex and difficult to implement for Gulf suppliers. If we want more 'green' aluminium, our policies must open doors, not close them."





The discussions at ARABAL also highlighted advances in low-carbon technologies, energy diversification, and circularity, with strong emphasis on worker safety and sustainable management throughout the value chain.

“The sustainable management of the entire aluminium chain — from energy and production to recycling and smart, eco-efficient applications — will be decisive for competitiveness in the coming decade,” Conserva noted. “For Europe’s aluminium industry, the path is clear: invest in innovation, recycling, and energy self-sufficiency, notably nuclear. We should also fully liberalise, and not restrict, supplies of low carbon primary aluminium.”

Conserva concluded by recalling FACE’s long-standing ties with the region:

“FACE is proud to have represented Europe in this important dialogue, building on more than 25 years of cooperation with our partners in the Gulf. We warmly thank the Gulf Aluminium Council and its Secretary General Mahmood Daylami for their excellent organisation and continued partnership.”

FEDERATION OF ALUMINIUM CONSUMERS IN EUROPE (FACE)

FACE was founded in 1999 to specifically defend the interests of the EU independent downstream aluminium transformers, users and consumers. Based in Brussels, FACE advocates for the liberalisation of raw materials, protecting the EU's manufacturing base, supporting a rules-based and fair international system with the WTO at its core, and for the global transformation towards a low-carbon economy with aluminium as the ideal material for attaining sustainability goals.

<https://face-aluminium.com/>

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