

# IOGP Europe's contribution to the call for a European Single Market strategy for 2025

**IOGP Europe fully supports prioritization of a well-functioning and competitive energy market. A more integrated energy market with diversified sourcing is essential to ensure affordable energy, reduced volatility and ensuring Europe's long-term competitiveness, sustainability and security.<sup>1</sup> By prioritizing energy infrastructure development, fostering innovation through technology neutrality, accelerating permitting processes, and addressing regional disparities, the EU can build a resilient and integrated market.**

Furthermore, to assist in the streamlining of the regulatory framework and ensuring that it is implementable and drive the competitiveness of European industries, IOGP Europe calls for the upcoming Omnibus proposal to address key EU legislation in the areas that present particular challenges for companies, such as the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the EU Taxonomy Regulation, Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), and the EU Methane Emissions Regulation.<sup>2</sup>

## **We offer 5 suggestions for topics that the European Single market strategy should address.**

- 1) Establish a robust regulatory framework that strengthens cross-border cooperation and ensures the seamless integration of existing infrastructure developments.** Compatibility, interoperability, and EU-level coordination should be at the core of these development plans to optimize costs and avoid stranded assets. Furthermore, **the principle of technology neutrality should be embedded in all policies and legislative frameworks**, harmonizing regulations and incentives to create a level playing field between different technologies and production pathways. This will foster innovation and the adoption of the most efficient solutions, irrespective of the technology used, promoting competition, lowering costs, and leveraging market dynamics to achieve sustainable and cost-effective outcomes.
- 2) Accelerate the development of new cross-border infrastructure to complement existing networks, ensuring interoperability between EU Member States and relevant third countries.**<sup>3</sup> Priority initiatives include stimulating the creation of CO<sub>2</sub> transport and hydrogen infrastructure to link producers and consumers, unlocking the important potential of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)<sup>4</sup> and Hydrogen to drive economic growth while further facilitating Europe's decarbonization goals. Furthermore, any regulation of CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure should be adopted in 2025 and should be balanced, fit-for-purpose, avoiding overly stringent measures that might hinder investment.

<sup>1</sup> International Monetary Fund (IMF) report presented to the EU finance ministers on 13 January 2025 stated that EU energy market integration would lower prices, improve EU energy security and help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. An EU integrated energy market could save around 40 billion euros per year for the EU and attract investors. Source: [https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/eu-can-stand-up-us-china-with-integrated-energy-market-imf-states-2025-01-16/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/eu-can-stand-up-us-china-with-integrated-energy-market-imf-states-2025-01-16/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

<sup>2</sup> IOGP Europe recommendations for Omnibus proposal: [IOGP Europe website](#).

<sup>3</sup> [IOGP Europe key principles on a future regulatory framework for CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure](#), available on IOGP Europe website.

<sup>4</sup> IOGP Europe calls for a swift implementation of the actions stemming from [Industrial Carbon Management Strategy](#), including the development of regulatory framework for CO<sub>2</sub> transport regulatory package. Details on IOGP position are available [here](#).

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- 3) **Establish dedicated funding for cross-border infrastructure developments to complement mechanisms like the TEN-E framework and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for energy.** This targeted financial support would accelerate infrastructure development and strengthen the Single Market's ability to meet its energy and economic objectives while also stimulating private capital for these projects.
  - 4) **Speed-up permitting and streamlined administrative processes are essential.** Lengthy industrial permitting procedures hinder green and digital transformations and undermine the EU's global competitiveness. Simplifying, digitalizing, and accelerating permitting processes will reduce delays, stimulate investment, and speed up the deployment of low-carbon technologies.
  - 5) **Address the diverse circumstances and challenges across European regions.** Differences in income levels, energy mixes, industrial composition, geographic conditions suitable for different low-carbon technologies (e.g. storing and transporting CO<sub>2</sub>) and historical energy infrastructure development result in varying capacities for decarbonization. EU policies must account for these disparities to ensure convergence and collective progress toward shared goals. Climate, energy, and industrial regulations should aim to bridge regional divides, fostering unity to avoid any fragmentation within the Single Market.