



European Association of Manufacturers of Compressors, Vacuum Pumps, Pneumatic Tools and Air & Condensate Treatment Equipment

Newsletter #3

– FEBURARY 2026

Highlights from the European Commission

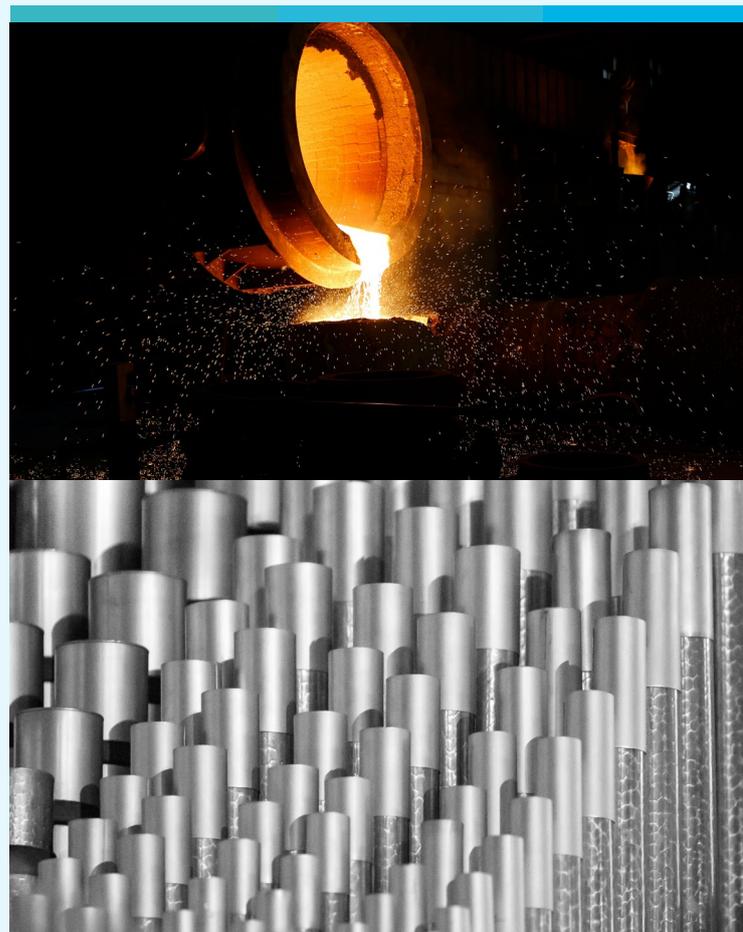
EU Moves to Shield Steel Sector

Brussels is stepping up efforts to protect Europe's steel industry from a surge in low priced imports and persistent global overcapacity, as current trade safeguards are set to expire on 30 June 2026.

The EU Parliament's International Trade Committee has backed the EU Action Plan on Steel and Metals suggesting to cut duty free import quotas by about 47 percent compared with 2024 levels and to raise tariffs on volumes above those quotas to around 50 percent.

While intended to support domestic producers, Pneurop is concerned that the measures will drive up steel prices across the EU, increasing costs for downstream manufacturers and reducing competitiveness. Last November we wrote to Trade Commissioner Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ addressing these issues. We also fear that the proposed "melt and pour" rule would add significant administrative burdens, particularly for SMEs.

Trilogue negotiations between the Parliament and the Council are expected to start on 23 February 2026. The aim is to reach a deal ahead of trade defence rules' expiry on 30 June 2026.



Highlights from PN's

PN 14

F-Gas Regulation

PN 14 has prepared the argumentation for a 4-year derogation of CARDS from articles 11.5 and 16.5 of the legislation. After technical assessment German Ministry confirmed in October last year that they will official apply for the 4year exemption. Such application must be reviewed by the European Commission before being put for vote to the member states.

Furthermore, PN 14 is working on position papers in view of the impact of PFAS in the frame of the F-Gas regulation. They came to the conclusion that three position papers are required:

- PN14 position paper PFAS export
- PN14 position paper PFAS/F-Gas phase out alignment
- PN14 position paper PFAS – R02 restriction option

Once finalise they will be published on our website and be shared with the European Institutions.

PN2

PN 2 has prepared papers to explain and promote the following **ISO standards**:

- ISO 22484 - Performance test code for electrically driven low-pressure air compressor packages
- ISO 4376 Cycle energy requirement — Test method

Both ISO texts have already been published on our website.

The contribution Pneurop made to the EEMODS Conference on [„Limitations of component based efficiency regulations for compressed air systems“](#) is now downloadable from our website.

In addition, PN2 is occupied with developing a technical paper on **„IE and IES rating implications on compressors“**.

Same as PN14, PN2 is preparing to give input to the **ECHA public consultation on PFAS** which is expected to open in March 2026.

PN 6

Pressure vessels directive (PED & SPVD)

Pneurop strongly opposes the repeal od SPVD and advocates for maintaining its distinct legal treatment to avoid safety concerns and significant cost increases for manufacturers (new conformity assessments).

Oil separators

Oil separators are defined as simple pressure vessels in Guideline No 1. As this has been challenged by the French Ministry and ADCO, PN6 is currently collecting data and preparing a position paper explaining our concerns.

Recertifying oil separators would require a full redesign, new certifications, retesting, process adjustments at supplier and manufacturer level, pilot runs, and service updates, involving multiple engineering, quality, purchasing, and third party certification teams.

Pneurop joint working group on trade

In view of the ever increasing number of horizontal regulations as well as trade related events affecting our sector, which go beyond the expertise of our PN'S, the Executive Council has decided to establish a Pneurop Joint Working Group on Trade. The aim is to develop Pneurop positions on relevant topics in order to enhance our advocacy work. Relevant topics are (for example):

- EU-US trade deal (Section 232 tariffs on steel, aluminium, copper and related derivatives)
- EU- Mercosur trade deal
- Trade impact of the CBAM measures
- Impact of the Chinese rare earth controls
- The European Steel and metals action plan



We call for new members to this working group, which will have its first meeting in March (date tbd).

Required candidate profile:

- be involved in their companies monitoring and analysis of upcoming European legislation
- and/or have a mandate to discuss Pneurop positions on the topics of common interest
- depending on the organization, it can be someone from R&D, marketing, advocacy, trade & compliance, legal..

If you are interested to join or know more, please get in touch: secgen@pneurop.eu



Pneurop plenary 2026 Registrations are open!

This year's plenary will be hosted by VDMA in Frankfurt from 27-29 May. Event location is the prestigious hotel Steigenberger Icon Frankfurter Hof.

Apart from extensive regulatory updates as well as our general Assembly, we have included some special **NEW elements** in this year's plenary program:

Three theme sessions focusing on:

- US Tariffs "Challenges for European Pump and Compressor Manufacturers"
- Chinese Market Competitors "How to ensure Fair Competition"
- Competitiveness of European Manufacturers in the Global Market

PN working sessions:

- PN 2: ISO 4376 + ISO 22484; new items: DPP, EN 1012 vs. ISO 18623
- PN 5: EN 1012-2 +ISO/TC112
- PN 6: PED / SPVD
- PN 14: CARDS derogation
- PN 18: EN 1012-3

Furthermore:

- JWG Digitalization
- JWG Trade (new!)
- Joint PN 2, PN 14 , PN 18 session on PFAS

Details on this compelling program, registration and hotel booking are available on the [event website](#).

Summary of Orgalim bulletin



01-2026

Internal market

Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA)

The focus shifted from framework design to implementation, with the launch of the Raw Materials Mechanism, adoption of the REsourceEU Action Plan with 3bn funding, proposed amendments to strengthen recycling and circularity, and the closure of the second call for Strategic Projects with over 160 applications.

Data policies

The Commission published the Digital Omnibus on Data and Cybersecurity alongside the EU Data Union Strategy, consolidating existing data legislation under the Data Act and outlining measures to simplify the regulatory framework and strengthen EU data sovereignty.

Data Act

Implementation of the Data Act progressed with the publication of Model Contractual Terms, while additional guidance on compensation mechanisms and selected definitions is expected in early 2026.

Machinery Directive

Work continued on the Guide to the Machinery Regulation, supported by Member State accident data submissions and ongoing analysis that may lead to reclassification of certain machinery categories, alongside preparations for updated harmonised standards.

Pressure Equipment Directive (PED)

New harmonised standards under the PED were published with a transition period until 13 July 2027, while discussions continued concerning the integration of non-PED equipment into PED assemblies (Guideline C-13). AdCo has rejected existing interpretations and requested new guidance from Orgalim, with revised texts expected to be discussed in early 2026. The Commission's evaluation of the PED and SPVD remained pending.

New Legislative Framework (NLF)

The Commission confirmed the continued relevance of the NLF while launching a public consultation and preparing broader reforms aimed at integrating digital tools, supporting circular economy objectives and strengthening market surveillance.

Digital policy

2030 Digital Compass

The Commission launched a review process under the Digital Decade Policy Programme to assess progress towards 2030 targets and evaluate whether adjustments are needed in light of technological, economic and societal developments.

Artificial Intelligence

Several provisions of the AI Act became applicable, while the Commission advanced implementation through the Apply AI strategy, the launch of an AI Act Service Desk and the establishment of an Advisory Forum to support governance and compliance.

Cyber Resilience Act

No changes were introduced to CRA obligations, but implementation advanced through new implementing and delegated acts, the development of a single reporting platform and the preparation of guidance documents supporting circular economy objectives and strengthening market surveillance.

Summary of Orgalim bulletin

01-2026

Market access

New trade measure to address steel overcapacity

In October 2025, the Commission proposed a new trade measure to replace the EU's existing steel safeguards, due to expire in June 2026. It would significantly tighten import conditions, almost halving available import volumes and doubling out-of-quota duties to 50%. The Council adopted its General Approach in December 2025 with only minor changes, and the European Parliament's INTA Committee is expected to adopt its Draft Report in late January 2026, paving the way for trilogue negotiations in February.

EU-Mercosur agreement

The Commission submitted the EU-Mercosur agreement for ratification in September 2025, with the trade pillar requiring approval only by the Council and the European Parliament. While the Council endorsed the agreement in January, the Parliament requested an opinion from the Court of Justice on its compatibility with EU treaties, potentially delaying ratification by up to two years.

Environment

Environmental Omnibus

The Commission proposed the Environmental Omnibus simplification package, introducing measures to reduce administrative burdens, repeal the SCIP database (eventually) and adjust extended producer responsibility obligations.

Omnibus VI on Chemicals and European Chemicals Industry Action Plan

Parliamentary rapporteurs (ENVI and IMCO) published draft reports proposing targeted amendments to



chemicals legislation, with a focus on modernised labelling rules, digital solutions and clearer compliance timelines.

PFAS Restriction Proposal

ECHA confirmed that the stakeholder consultation on the draft socio-economic opinion for the PFAS restriction will take place in spring 2026. To help stakeholders prepare, ECHA published guidance explaining the consultation survey and an updated map of PFAS uses by sector and application. In parallel, a European Parliament study concluded that key PFAS categories are critical enablers of EU industrial competitiveness. Both a full ban and one with limited derogations would lead to significant economic and employment impacts. It recommends permanent or long-term derogations for strategic sectors, extended transition periods for green technologies, and the exclusion of F-gases from a horizontal PFAS restriction.

Circular Economy Policy

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

Implementation of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation advanced through extensive technical work by the Commission's Joint Research Centre, which published a series of reports between late 2025 and early 2026. These cover methodologies on substances of concern, life-cycle environmental impacts, circularity, performance classes and labelling, strategic autonomy, trade and third-country impacts, monitoring via consumption footprints, and the treatment of unsold products, providing a technical foundation for future ESPR measures.