IAFEI Weekly Update

Knowledge, Resources, News, and Announcements

Valued All IAFEI Board members, ExCom members & Advisory Committee members:

This is an issue of **IAFEI Weekly Update** for the week of **January 26, 2026**.

My heartfelt thanks go to Conchita (CLM), Piergiorgio (PGV), and Nobu (NTA) for their continued support and for consistently contributing articles to the editorial team.

Please feel free to circulate this Weekly Update within your organization. I am hoping that this Weekly Update may increase the value of IAFEI membership. If you have any suggestions, or recommendations, or would like to participate to provide articles, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continuous support and I would love to hear from you.

Tsutomu Mannari (TMA)
Chairman of IAFEI

(Total 11 pages)

Upcoming Events (Tentative)

Date	Time	Event
Feb. 9 (Mon)	6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taipei, 8PM Tokyo, 12PM CET	Q1 Ex Com Meeting
End Feb.		Technical Committee Webinar
End Mar.		IAFEI Quarterly #61 Issue
Mid Apr.		Technical Committee Webinar
May. 12 (Tue)	6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taiwan, 8PM Tokyo, 1PM CET	Q2 Ex Com Meeting
Mid Jun.		Technical Committee Webinar
End Jul.		IAFEI Quarterly #62 Issue
Aug. 3 (Mon)	6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taiwan, 8PM Tokyo, 1PM CET	Q3 Ex Com Meeting
End Aug.		Technical Committee Webinar
Mid Oct.		IAFEI DAY
Nov. 10 (Tue)	6PM Hanoi, 7PM Beijing/Manila/Taiwan, 8PM Tokyo, 12 PM CET	Q4 Ex Com Meeting + BOD Meeting
Dec. 10 (Thu)		IAFEI Quarterly #63 Issue

You are welcome to visit our **official website** www.iafei.org

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EU-Mercosur at a decisive moment: Launching our new podcast series

Yesterday, we launched a new podcast series, Espresso Briefings, offering concise conversations on key policy and business issues shaping Europe's future. (... ...)

Read the Newsletter >>>

(↑Contributed by PGV)

02 BUSINESSEUROPE | Headlines | December 4, 2025
Clean Industrial Deal - Taking Stock

On 2 December, we gathered policymakers and industry leaders at the Solvay Library in Brussels to take stock of the Clean Industrial Deal, nine months after its launch. As 2025 draws to a close, a key question is whether EU policy is truly translating into concrete industrial decarbonisation projects across Europe. (... ...)

Read the Newsletter >>>

(↑Contributed by PGV)

03 The World Bank | Weekly Update | January 19, 2026
Global Growth Defies Expectations—What It Means for Jobs

There's no crystal ball for predicting growth in developing economies. But our latest Global Economic Prospects report analyzes what's behind 2025's steady yet unequal growth—and what's necessary to create jobs and drive development in the years ahead. In this issue, we also look at how digital access can unlock employment, consider the impact of AI data centers on local water supplies, and introduce the World Bank's new Land Data Map—an interactive tool linking land to jobs, revenues, and urban development. (... ...)

Read On More in Browser >>>

(↑Contributed by CLM)

04 The World Bank | Blogs | January 06, 2026
Narrowing the Digital Divide Yields Jobs.

Digital tools can help the world's poorest people get jobs, access markets, and earn enough money to support their families. The challenge? Surmounting the multiple obstacles to connectivity. (... ...)

Read the Blog in Browser >>>

(↑Contributed by CLM)

05 OECD | Tax News | January 22, 2026
Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes: New peer review reports on transparency and exchange of information on request

The Global Forum has released its latest peer review reports on transparency and exchange of information on request (EOIR). The five new reports assess compliance with the EOIR standard for Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Cabo Verde, Palau and the Seychelles. (… …)

Read More >>>

(↑Contributed by NTA)

06 OECD | Tax News | January 22, 2026
OECD transfer pricing country profiles

The OECD has released a new batch of updated transfer pricing country profiles, reflecting the current transfer pricing legislation of eight jurisdictions: Bosnia Herzegovina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, Greece, Iceland, Korea, and Norway. (… …)

See Updates Now Available >>>

(↑Contributed by NTA)

07 OECD | Tax News | Forthcoming Event | January 26-28, 2026
Global Forum on VAT

The Sixth Meeting of the Global Forum on VAT will be held at the OECD headquarters on 26-28 January 2026. The event will bring together representatives from jurisdictions, international organisations, global business and other stakeholders to shape strategies for efficient and future-ready VAT systems in the age of digital transformation. (… …)

Read More >>>

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08 OECD | Publications | November 17, 2025
Africa Capital Markets Report 2025

Many African economies face important financing needs, making the development of vibrant and well-functioning domestic capital markets a priority across the region. Stronger market-based finance could help spur innovation and competitiveness, improve financial inclusion, and drive sustainable growth. Several African countries have made strides in improving their capital market ecosystem but progress remains uneven. Many markets continue to face significant challenges, including limited market infrastructure and liquidity, shallow investor bases, and regulatory fragmentation. These constraints may also limit their ability to close climate transition investment gaps and fully support economic growth. (The Africa Capital Markets Report reviews the policy and regulatory environment for debt and equity markets in the region, and provides guidance to help authorities strengthen them. (… …)

Read the Report in Browser >>>

(↑Contributed by NTA)

09 OECD | Blogs, Videos & Podcasts | December 22, 2025

10 things to know about African capital markets

African capital markets are diverse in structure and maturity, but generally less developed than other emerging and developing markets. There is wide scope for a stronger role for market-based financing in mobilising domestic and international capital towards economic development, and governments and regulators in the region have a range of policy levers to drive development of these markets. (… …)

Read the Article in Browser >>>

(↑Contributed by NTA)

10 OECD | Education and Skills Newsletter | Webinar Announcement | February 5, 2026

Why should we care? Empathy in education policy, practice and assessment

5 February 14:00 CET

Empathy plays a central role in how children interact with others, build relationships and contribute to supportive and inclusive schools. It matters for cohesive, peaceful societies. Yet while many recognise its importance, education systems still struggle to define empathy, teach it and create policies and assessments to support and monitor its development.

In this webinar, we'll explore why empathy matters for education systems and how it can be measured, understood and implemented. Bringing together global perspectives from research, policy and practice, the discussion will examine how we can support system-level strategies and school-based initiatives that foster empathy, children's wellbeing and positive school climates. Join us to see how we can bring empathy to the heart of education. (… …)

Register Here >>>

(↑Contributed by NTA)

BUSINESSEUROPE

Headlines 18 December 2025

European business priorities for the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU

Yesterday, we launched a new podcast series, Espresso Briefings, offering concise conversations on key policy and business issues shaping Europe's future.

The first episode focuses on one of the EU's most debated trade files: the EU-Mercosur agreement, which has been 26 years in the making and has now reached a decisive stage.

Tomorrow, the European Council will vote on the agreement, taking a key step towards its signature, the first formal stage on the path to ratification. If concluded, the agreement would open access to a market of 270 million consumers and, at a time of rising global trade tensions, offer a strategic win for Europe's competitiveness and trade diversification. In this inaugural episode, our Deputy Director General Luisa Santos is in conversation with Alan Sherlock, Acting Director of Communications.

They discuss what is at stake for European business, the opportunities the agreement could bring, and the long journey that has led to this pivotal moment – as well as why now is the time to act.

Listen to the First Episode Here >>>

Towards the Circular Economy Act – Workshop 3

On Tuesday, we wrapped up our Breakfast Series with Workshop 3 – "What's needed? Solutions for the Circular Economy Act (CEA)." The session explored priorities for a fit-for-purpose EU CEA, including ways to scale up circularity, avoid regulatory overlaps, strengthen the Single Market, and ensure a global level playing field.

Discussions highlighted the need for harmonised End-of-Waste criteria, coherent Extended Producer Responsibility schemes, and demand-side measures to support a well-functioning market for secondary raw materials. The session featured insights from Stefano Soro (DG GROW, European Commission), Justyna Balbier (Norsk Hydro), Stefan Sipka (European Policy Centre), and was moderated by Louise Bünemann (Confederation of Danish Industry).

Did you know?

For more information, check out our dedicated website: https://www.businesseurope.eu/eu-mercosur-trade-agreement/

Quote of the week

"Failing to approve the pact would represent not only an economic loss, but a significant blow to the EU's credibility as a reliable partner."

Our joint statement with the European Round Table for Industry, Eurochambres and the European Services Forum on the EU-Mercosur trade agreement, quoted in Borderlex on 12 December.

Latest Publications

CBAM review: much-needed clarity on exports, enforcement and scope

17 December

Read our press release.

Message to the European Council meeting on 18-19 December 2025

15 December

Read our letter to António Costa, President of the European Council.

The European Parliament's INL on AI at work

11 December

Read our joint statement.

Upcoming events

28 January
The Business case for responsible business conduct: strategic opportunities and policy incentives

29 January
Research Conference: Understanding the impact of the Recovery and Resilience Facility

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(Reposted from: BUSINESSEUROPE Headlines, December 18, 2025) ow

BUSINESSEUROPE

Headlines

4 December 2025

Clean Industrial Deal - Taking Stock

On 2 December, we gathered policymakers and industry leaders at the Solvay Library in Brussels to take stock of the Clean Industrial Deal, nine months after its launch. As 2025 draws to a close, a key question is whether EU policy is truly translating into concrete industrial decarbonisation projects across Europe.

Opening the discussion, our President Fredrik Persson stressed the urgency of moving from ambition to action: "The EU must focus on delivery and tangible results for companies on the ground. There is no other way for Europe to create a legacy and get its economic growth back on track. For this we must streamline permitting, cut energy costs, simplify rules, boost demand for low-carbon tech, and ensure tech neutrality."

These priorities were echoed in the keynote address by Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities, Lars Aagaard, and throughout the subsequent debate featuring voices from the European Commission, European Parliament and companies. A unifying message that emerged was that the Clean Industrial Deal is only the beginning. Europe must maintain momentum by ensuring the right conditions for industry to grow, innovate and compete globally.

[See More Pictures of the Event >>>]

Engaging with key stakeholders in China

A BusinessEurope delegation led by our Director General, Markus J. Beyrer, is in China this week for a series of high-level meetings with key interlocutors from business, think tanks, and government. Engagements include exchanges with the Delegation of the European Union to China, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, and the EU Chamber of Commerce in China.

China is a vital market for European companies, but challenges are becoming increasingly prominent, including trade imbalances, industrial overcapacity, and a heavily export-driven economic model. Concerns are also growing around export controls on critical materials such as rare earth elements, which expose European industry to strategic vulnerabilities. We are calling for a more balanced and predictable partnership, built on reciprocity and a level playing field that supports long-term competitiveness and shared prosperity.

Did you know?

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Quote of the week

"Reducing energy costs for European Union businesses, simplifying the regulatory rules under which they operate and the need to address structural competitiveness problems in Europe are among the concerns of European companies."

Our Director General Markus J. Beyrer in interview with the Greek media outlet Liberal on 2 December.

Latest Publications

Unlocking the EU's Greening Freight Package

1 December

Read our statement.

Upcoming events

… …

… …

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