



Berlin, 24. Juni 2026

Joint Position Paper

A European Hydrogen Alliance – for a resilient and sustainable Europe

Progress since June 2025 – yet ramp-up remains in a critical phase

Hydrogen and its derivatives not only contribute to climate protection but are also a key building block for Europe to become more resilient, sovereign and thus sustainable. A successful ramp-up of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen strengthens security of supply, reduces dependence on fossil fuel imports, diversifies energy partnerships and creates industrial value. At the same time, hydrogen enables the storage of renewable energy, increases the flexibility of the energy system and supports the decarbonisation of applications in industry, transport and mobility that are difficult to electrify.

In June 2025, we advocated for a European Hydrogen Alliance in a [joint policy paper](#). It is clear that the roll-out of hydrogen is making progress where infrastructure, funding, demand incentives, regulatory certainty and risk mitigation work in tandem. However, this progress must not obscure the fact that, overall, the roll-out continues to lag significantly behind political and industrial requirements. Many companies along the value chain are under considerable economic pressure: investments are being postponed, business models remain uncertain, and European technology providers are increasingly facing intensified international competition. As a result, final investment decisions remain selective. Although many projects are in the planning stage or being prepared for implementation, they are being held back by high costs, strict regulations, a lack of demand certainty and infrastructure risks.

This is precisely why a clear political commitment to building a hydrogen economy is now needed across the EU: for a resilient and sustainable Europe. BDEW, together with fifteen other German and European industry associations – DVGW, DWV, en2X, Eurogas, figawa, FNB GAS, Die Gas- und Wasserstoffwirtschaft, Hydrogen Europe, INES, VCI, VDA, VDMA P2X4A, VIK, VKU, Wirtschaftsvereinigung Stahl – is calling, more strongly than ever, for a hydrogen alliance at Member State level. An alliance of Member States is needed to drive Europe forward in accelerating a common hydrogen market and joint industrial value creation. Only in this way can political, regulatory and financial levers be pooled.

Hydrogen as a factor in Europe's resilience

Hydrogen is at once an industrial, resilience and energy policy issue. Russia's war against Ukraine has highlighted Europe's vulnerability due to its one-sided dependence on fossil fuel imports. The consequences of a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz and a war with Iran would be far-reaching and have a widespread impact on energy and goods flows. This makes it all the more clear that a focus on (short-term) cost efficiency must not obscure the strategic and long-term perspective on resilience, innovation and economic value creation. A resilient hydrogen economy can not only make a significant contribution to strengthening European resilience and sovereignty, but also to deepening pan-European value creation. With this in mind,

we will continue to actively accompany its current integration at EU level into the Industrial Accelerator Act and the Net Zero Industry Act.

This is where a hydrogen alliance must come into play: diversifying the energy supply through domestic production, European pipeline corridors, strategic energy partnerships and international supply chains; strengthening energy-intensive industries; providing system-supporting flexibility within the energy system; and expanding European technologies and infrastructure to bolster energy sovereignty. A broad portfolio of production and import sources, together with the integration of hydrogen into industrial value chains, will strengthen Europe's geopolitical and economic capacity to act and make us less vulnerable to one-sided dependencies and supply chain issues.

Project progress and network development

The first steps towards establishing a hydrogen economy have been taken. However, the market ramp-up as a whole has not yet achieved the necessary scale, speed and investment momentum:

Despite the uncertainties, several major electrolysis and hydrogen projects centred around industrial clusters have reached crucial development milestones and demonstrate that investment is possible when demand, funding, infrastructure and regulatory predictability come together. These include, amongst others, the investment decisions for the 200 MW ELYgator electrolyser in Rotterdam/Maasvlakte and for the first 300 MW phase of the Andalusian Green Hydrogen Valley in Spain, progress on the 320 MWelectrolyser as part of the Clean Hydrogen Coastline project in Emden, and electrolysis projects currently under construction like the 100 MW REFHYNE 2 electrolyser in the Rhineland, the 200 MW Holland Hydrogen 1 electrolyser in the Port of Rotterdam, and the 100 MW Lingen Green Hydrogen electrolyser in Lower Saxony. Further projects are on the verge of a final investment decision, such as the eSAF Brandenburg project at the Schwedt site.

Important milestones have also been reached in terms of infrastructure. The German hydrogen core network, the ongoing capacity reservation process and the further development of cross-border hydrogen corridors are key building blocks for a resilient European hydrogen market. The classification of cross-border transport corridors as European „Energy Highways“ is particularly positive. This underlines their strategic importance and opens up additional opportunities for coordinated funding, accelerated approvals and prioritised implementation.

The next steps must now follow swiftly. It is crucial to connect the core network without delay to storage facilities, import capacity, industrial clusters, distribution networks and European transport corridors.

Necessary cost reductions and risk mitigation

To make the roll-out more cost-effective, and to scale it up and replicate it, the regulatory framework must be revised. At present, numerous requirements are leading to significant additional costs, which are hampering investment and slowing down the development of a liquid hydrogen market.

These include the strict electricity procurement criteria for RFNBO-compliant hydrogen, the requirements for low-carbon power and fuels, and other cost factors. What is needed are practical, technology-neutral, competitive and investment-friendly framework conditions that enable additional hydrogen volumes and do not place an unnecessary burden on first-mover projects. In addition to reducing general system costs, other essential measures include exempting electrolysers from grid charges.

Furthermore, risk mitigation instruments are required. As there is as yet no liquid hydrogen market with reliable price signals, long-term off-take agreements and final investment decisions are often lacking. Contracts for difference can contribute to this, as can demand-side instruments, sureties, guarantees and other financing instruments. A technology-neutral approach should encompass both renewable and low-carbon hydrogen. In summary, a package of complementary measures is needed to secure investment across the entire value chain.

A Hydrogen Alliance for a resilient and sustainable Europe

Germany can and must play a leading role in this. That is why it is so important that projects in Germany get off the ground. As the largest business hub, a future importer of hydrogen and exporter of technology, a central network hub and an important sales market, Germany plays a pivotal and unifying role and has a considerable stake in a resilient European hydrogen economy. In this role, Germany can build bridges: to the Benelux countries and their ports; to France, Spain and Portugal via the H2Med project; to Italy and Austria along the SouthH2 Corridor; to the Nordic countries as production sites; and to partners outside Europe.

Hydrogen production projects are needed across the EU to achieve system stabilisation, local value creation, resilience, research and acceptance of the technology. However the clusters and valleys may be distributed, connecting infrastructure is vital in the interests of the European single market.

At the same time, demand for hydrogen will be bolstered by targeted, effective, competitive and, as far as possible, unbureaucratic European lead markets. A practical framework is crucial here, one that strikes the right balance between stimulating demand on the one hand and avoiding rigid and excessive regulations on the other. Against this backdrop, a cross-national discussion on instruments currently being developed at European level, such as the Industrial Accelerator Act, is also necessary.

In this respect, the undersigned associations reiterate their call and urge Germany to press ahead with the commitment set out in the coalition agreement to assume a leading role in a European hydrogen initiative, in line with the hydrogen alliance outlined above. The relevant umbrella organisations at EU level, as well as the signatory national associations, represent companies across the entire hydrogen value chain – from production, import, trade, transport, storage, distribution and sales, through technology and plant engineering, to applications in industry, the energy sector and transport. They can support and enrich the Hydrogen Alliance on the basis of their practical experience.
