



PRESS RELEASE: 2025 CET Congress | 12-14 June | Wrocław, Poland

Executives from the European ceramic tiles industry and national associations from all over Europe gathered for the **2025 CET Congress**, in **Wrocław, Poland**, from **12 to 14 June**, to address a broad range of developments and initiatives related to competitiveness of EU manufacturing, climate & energy, market access, trade defence, health & safety, environment, as well as construction and housing.



On **Friday 13 June**, the CET General Assembly took place at the AC Hotel Marriott Wrocław. The Assembly was opened by **CET Vice-Presidents Roman Blažiček and Raul Carnicer**, with a welcome address by **Ferdynand Gacki, President of Polska Unia Ceramiczna**. A recorded message from **MEP Elisabetta Gualmini**, Chair of the European Policy Ceramics Forum, underlined the importance of the ceramic industry for strategic EU value chains and local jobs, and called for policies that support **a shift from a Europe of consumers to a Europe of producers**. CET Vice-President Raul Carnicer stressed *“urgent need for a significant shift in EU policies to reverse the current trend of replacing EU industrial manufacturing by imports from countries with significantly lower environmental and social costs”*.

The agenda featured detailed updates on economic indicators, trade, and regulatory developments.

Economic indicators presented showed a continued negative impact of the energy crisis combined with increased regulatory costs on the competitiveness of EU ceramic tiles production. Although EU sales in ceramic tiles in volume were stable in 2024 compared to 2023, they remained 24 % lower than in 2021 in a context where EU consumption in ceramic tiles increased slightly in 2024 by 7,5 %. While EU ceramic tiles remain an export champion, ceramic tiles exports outside the EU decreased further in volume by 3,6 % in 2024, 34 % lower compared to 2021, following the cumulated effects of energy costs, regulatory burden and tariff & technical barriers to trade in export markets.

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In this context, the CET General Assembly stressed again the urgent need for the EU to restore the competitiveness of EU manufacturing by adopting **short term emergency measures on carbon costs**. Such measures should include:

- An **EU ETS Crisis Mechanism** allowing for the temporary suspension of the EUAs surrendering obligation or of the decrease rate of free allocation for sectors impacted by the crisis.
- **Simplifications of the EU ETS for small emitters**: the eligibility threshold for small emitters equivalent measures under Art. 27 of the EU ETS Directive shall be increased from 25 000 to 50 000 tCO₂/year to allow more small emitter installations to opt-out into national equivalent measures.
- **ETS State Aid Guidelines review**: The indirect costs compensation eligibility shall be extended to ceramics and all energy intensive industries, to support their efforts towards decarbonisation without undermining companies' global competitiveness and investment capacity.

The CET General Assembly also called on the EU to further **strengthen EU trade policy instruments**, use them as effectively as possible and develop the new instruments required to tackle the effects of illegal dumping/subsidies and overcapacities not only from China but also from India. CET members reiterated their call to fully reflect non-incurred environmental costs when calculating the dumping margin.

The General Assembly also provided an opportunity to discuss in detail the disproportionate and unjustified costs of current policies forecasted for the coming years under the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the ongoing review of the Ceramic Best Available Technics Reference Document (BREF) on the basis of the impact assessment developed by Confindustria Ceramica. CET members also exchanged on the **durability of ceramic tiles** and their positive contribution to **fire safety and energy efficiency of building** in the context of a study commissioned by ASCER and Confindustria Ceramica. Lastly, CET members highlighted the paramount importance of consumer information on the country where products were made through **mandatory origin marking**.

CET Vice-President Roman Blažíček warmly thanked **Polska Unia Ceramiczna and its President Ferdynand Gacki** for hosting the 2025 Congress and for a perfect organisation. Mr Blažíček welcomed the discussions held in Wrocław *"as illustrating well the importance of EU ceramic tiles producers being fully united in calling at EU and national level for more simplification, emergency measures on carbon and energy costs and a strong trade policy to the benefit of numerous global champions, thousands of SMEs and over 200.000 direct employees employed at local level in the EU ceramic industry."*

The 2026 CET Congress will take place from 4 to 6 June in Italy.

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