

Brussels, March 4th 2026

Joint Statement: Upholding AFIR: Strengthening funding and de-risking to ensure delivery

As the European Commission prepares the review of the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), we, representing vehicle manufacturers, fleet operators, infrastructure providers and the wider e-mobility and hydrogen ecosystem, jointly call for continuity, credibility and timely implementation.

AFIR has created a clear and predictable framework for deploying zero-emission heavy-duty vehicle (HDV) infrastructure across Europe for both battery-electric and H₂-powered vehicles. Its HDV charging and hydrogen refuelling targets are a cornerstone of Europe's climate objectives, industrial strategy and competitiveness. However, growing concerns among several Member States about their ability to meet these targets are already fuelling calls for flexibility or delay. Weakening or postponing agreed targets would undermine investor confidence, slow deployment and fragment the internal market.

The challenge Europe faces today is not the level of ambition in AFIR, but the conditions for delivery - **and these conditions must be addressed urgently, ahead of the presentation of the AFIR review.**

Public support works – continuity is now essential

EU support mechanisms have already proven their value. In particular, the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility (AFIF) has been instrumental in accelerating early deployment of HDV charging and refuelling infrastructure and in supporting Member States' progress towards AFIR compliance.

Yet, at a moment when implementation efforts must intensify, the exhaustion of AFIF resources risks reinforcing doubts about deliverability and increasing pressure to reopen the regulatory framework. AFIF must therefore be extended into the 2026–2027 period to ensure continuity and maintain investor confidence during this critical scale-up phase. Waiting for the next Multiannual Financial Framework starting in 2028 is not a viable option.

Grants alone are not sufficient

While capital grants remain indispensable, especially in the early phase, they do not fully address the market and utilisation risks inherent to large-scale e-HDV charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure (HRS). As a result, many projects struggle to attract sufficient commercial debt and private capital, even where grant support is available.

If Europe is to stay on track to deliver AFIR by 2030, public support must therefore combine grants with effective de-risking instruments that unlock private investment at scale and enable projects to move forward despite still-developing demand.

The need for EU-level de-risking, now

Against the backdrop of growing implementation concerns, we call on the European Commission **to put in place an EU-backed de-risking mechanism for zero-emission HDV charging and hydrogen-refuelling infrastructure before the AFIR review is finalised.** Acting early is essential to restore confidence, accelerate investment decisions and demonstrate that delivery challenges can be addressed without revising targets.

This de-risking tool should take the form of a dedicated, ring-fenced guarantee envelope, potentially under InvestEU, using available resources under the current MFF, with budgetary allocations already in 2026–2027. It should be closely aligned with AFIF to ensure coherence between grants and risk-sharing instruments.

A clear signal ahead of the AFIR review

As AFIR is reviewed, the immediate priority must be to **strengthen the financial conditions for implementation.** Providing funding continuity and operational de-risking tools ahead of the review offers a credible and constructive response to Member State concerns, while preserving the integrity of the regulatory framework.

Europe's competitiveness in zero-emission freight depends on regulatory stability, timely infrastructure deployment and credible financing solutions. Acting now, before the AFIR review is presented, would send a clear signal to markets and Member States alike.

We stand ready to work with the European Commission to rapidly operationalise these solutions and ensure that AFIR delivers on the ground.

