



# 2050 FLAT GLASS IN A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EUROPE

Bertrand Cazes  
Secretary General of Glass for Europe

GLASS  
FOR EUROPE

H2 Glass, GIFFT, Everglass Webinar - 2 December 2025





CLIMATE  
URGENCY



A GLOBAL  
MATERIAL



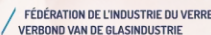
LOSS OF  
BIODIVERSITY

# FLAT GLASS IS KEY for climate-neutrality, circularity, digitalisation, safety, health, innovation

- **Energy efficient** glazing solutions for **buildings**
- More **efficient and interactive glass solutions**, which preserve security, offer new functionalities and contribute to **clean and automated mobility**
- Extra clear glass to capture more **solar energy**
- Innovative **IT integration** to support **digitalisation** with touch-screen, smart mirrors, solar-heat modulation, glazing enhancing radio and telecom signals, invisible sensors and radars, etc.
- Specific glass solutions with **hygienic properties** for use in hospitals and most exposed environments
- **Recyclable** product with potential for enhanced collection



## THE TRADE ASSOCIATION'S DUTY to support the flat glass sector





# FLAT GLASS AND BUILDINGS

-37%

High-performance glazing can help cut nearly 37% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from buildings in the EU.



INSULATING  
GLASS UNITS



SWITCHABLE  
GLAZING



BIPV  
TRANSPARENT  
PHOTOVOLTAICS

# WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM SAVING POTENTIAL?

*Independent study by TNO - Potential impact of high performance glazing on Energy and CO2 savings in Europe*

## IN 2030



OF ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS



OF TOTAL EU BUILDING  
CONSUMPTION



OF ANNUAL CO2 EMISSION  
AVOIDANCE



OF TOTAL EU BUILDING CO<sub>2</sub>  
EMISSION

## IN 2050



OF ANNUAL ENERGY SAVINGS



OF TOTAL EU BUILDING  
CONSUMPTION



OF ANNUAL CO2 EMISSION  
AVOIDANCE

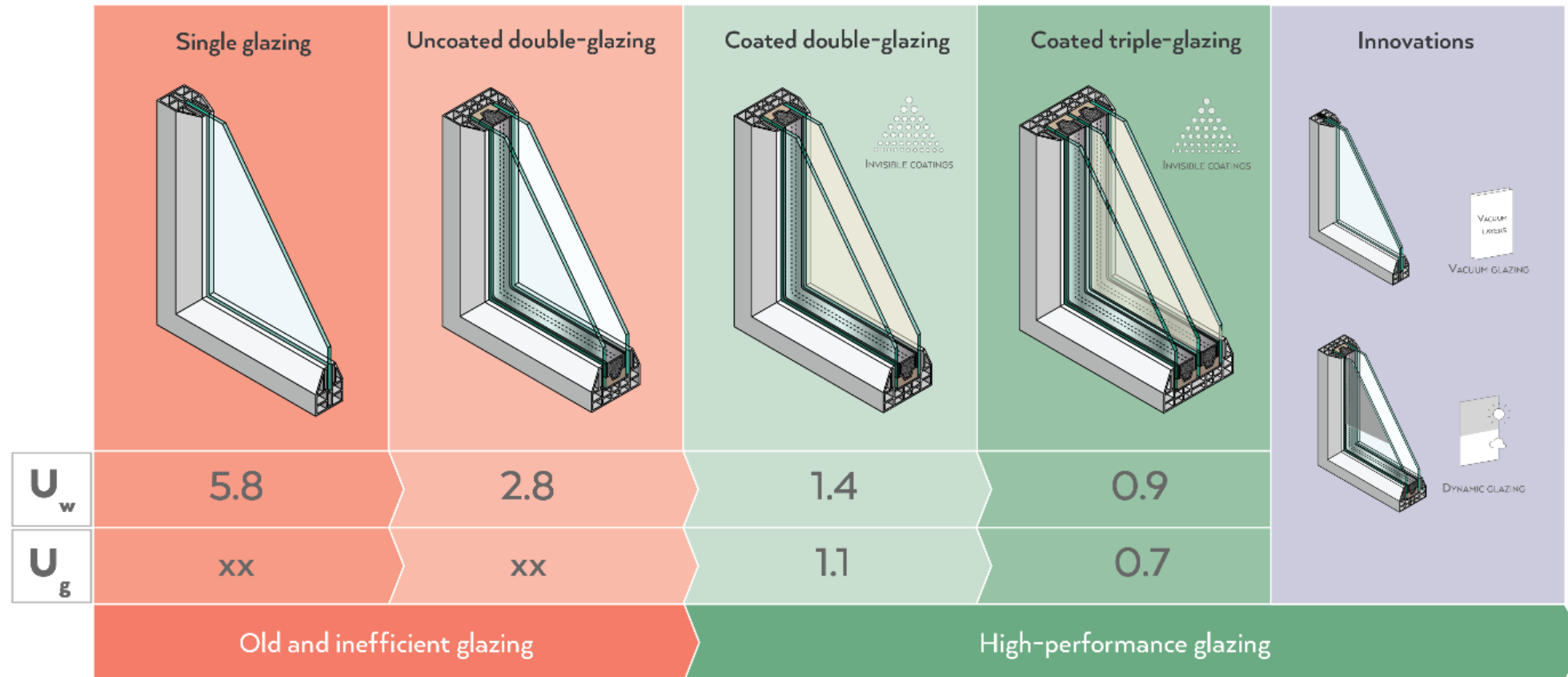


OF TOTAL EU BUILDING CO<sub>2</sub>  
EMISSION

**SIGNIFICANT: EUROPE'S BUILDINGS ARE AGED WITH A LOT OF OLD GENERATION GLAZING!**

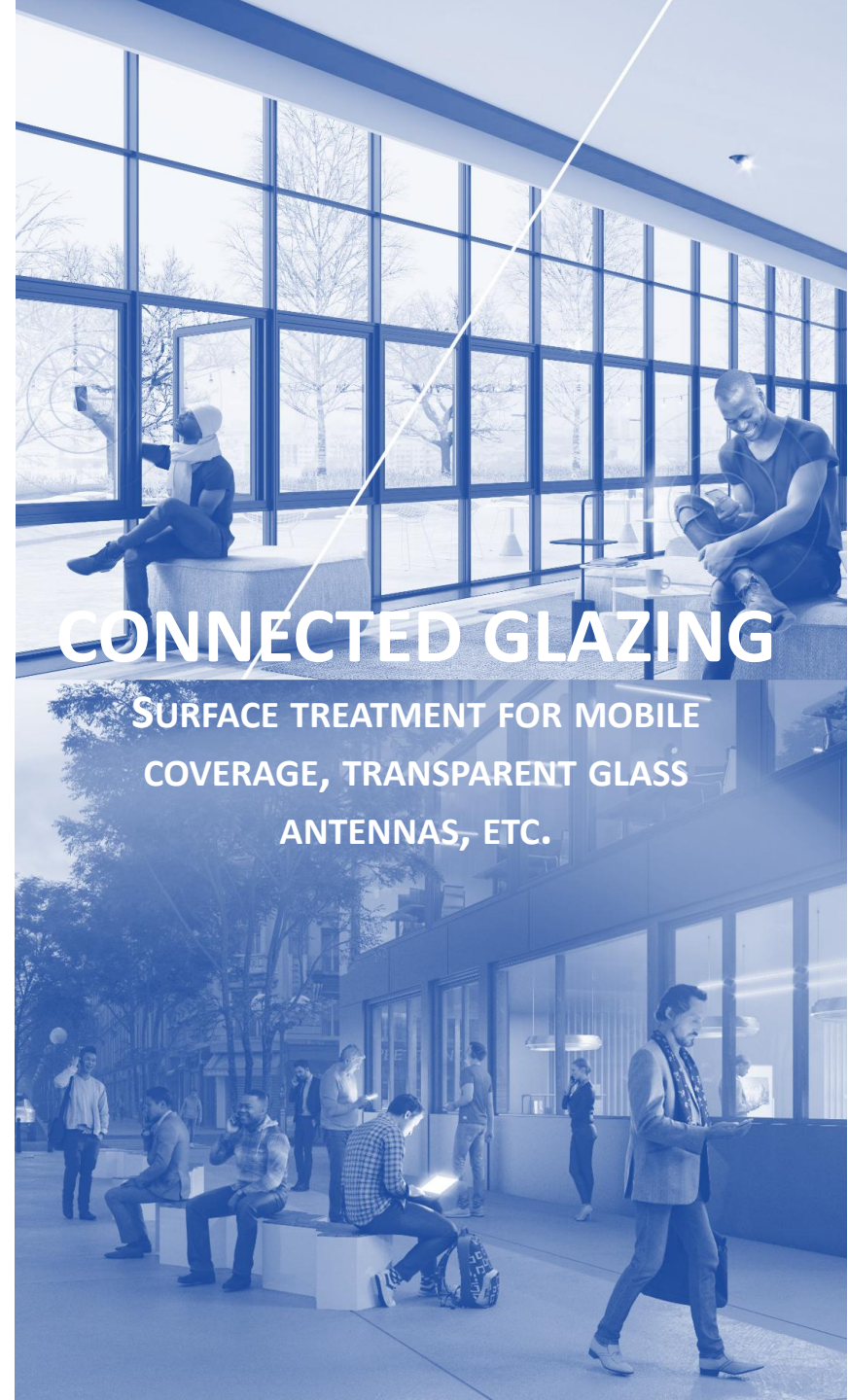


# CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT IN PRODUCT PERFORMANCE





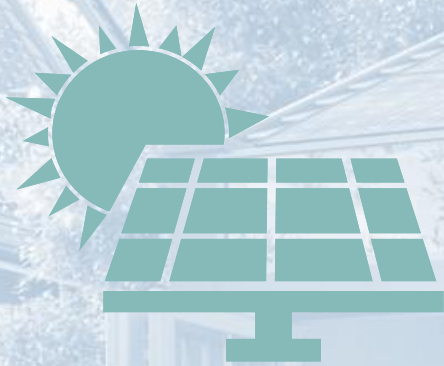
# A MYRIAD OF FUNCTIONALITIES FOR MODERN BUILDINGS



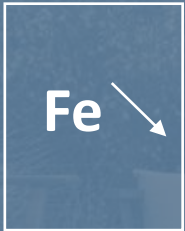
## CONNECTED GLAZING

SURFACE TREATMENT FOR MOBILE  
COVERAGE, TRANSPARENT GLASS  
ANTENNAS, ETC.

# FLAT GLASS AND SOLAR ENERGY



Glass represents from 65% to over 95% of the weight of PV modules.



LOW IRON



SELF  
CLEANING



SOLAR  
MIRRORS



# FLAT GLASS AND MOBILITY

**+17%**

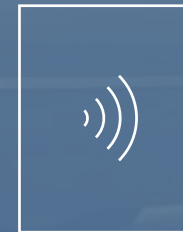
Average increase in glass area  
in passenger cars since 2000.



LIGHTER SAFETY  
GLASS



COATINGS FOR  
EFFICIENCY AND  
RANGE



AUTOMATED  
DRIVING  
COMPONENTS

# RESEARCHING, TESTING AND DEVELOPING NOVEL WAYS TO LOWER INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS



**-43% CO<sub>2</sub>**  
IN 25 YEARS PER TONNE  
OF FLAT GLASS



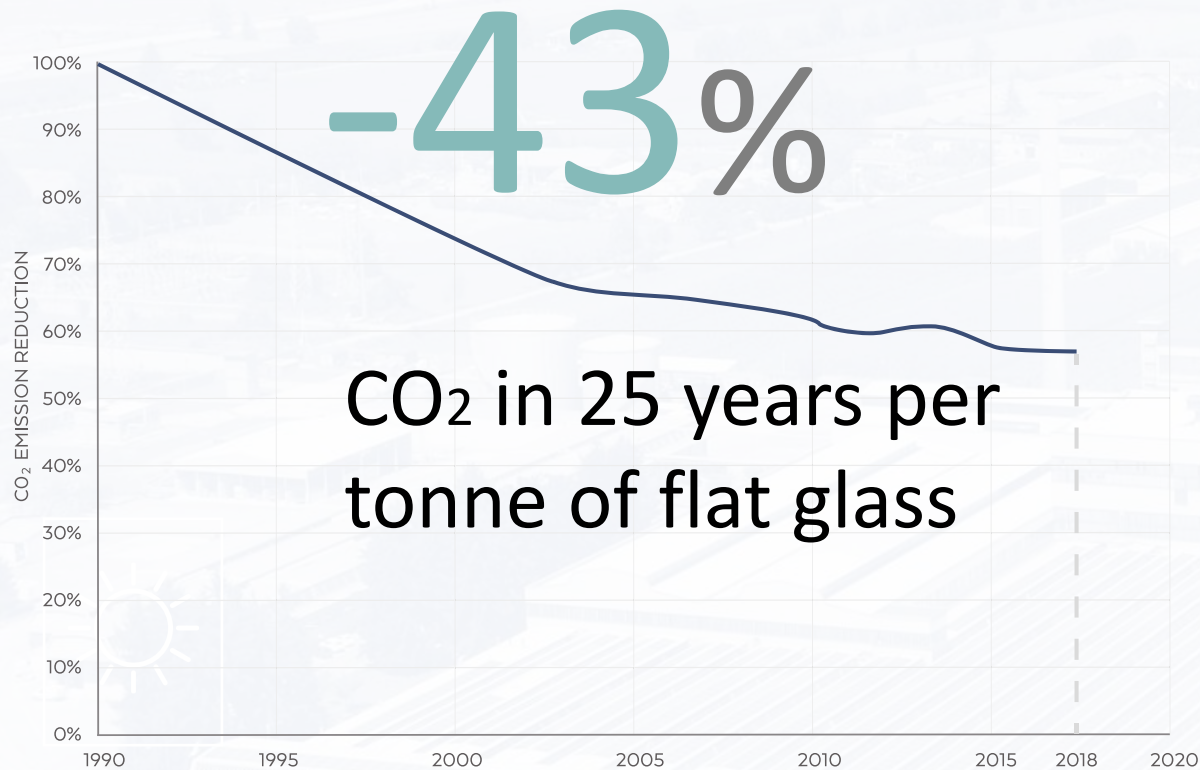
**0.13%**  
OF TOTAL EU  
EMISSIONS



**25%**  
OF PROCESS EMISSIONS



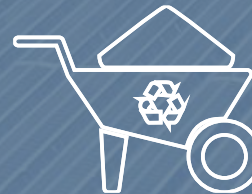
# EXCELLENT TRACK RECORD IN DECREASING EMISSIONS



**INDUSTRIAL  
INNOVATION**

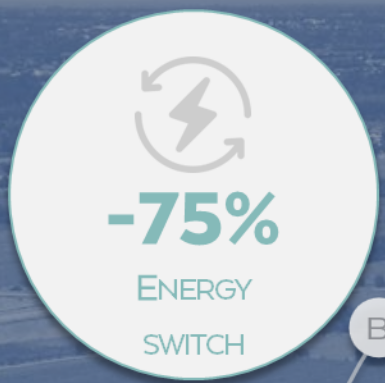


**EVOLVING  
ENERGY MIX**



**IMPROVING  
CIRCULARITY**





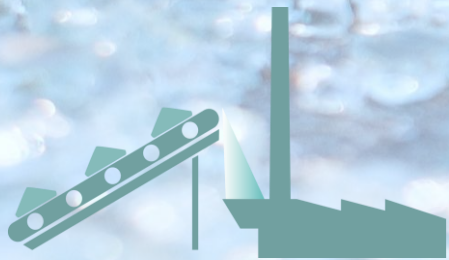
# NEW FRONTIERS IN FLAT GLASS MANUFACTURING





# RECYCLING: KEY EUROPEAN DATA

26%  
of cullet  
in a flat glass batch/  
furnace\*  
(est. 2.75 Mt)



2 to 3%  
reduction in energy consumption  
for every 10% extra cullet  
in the batch



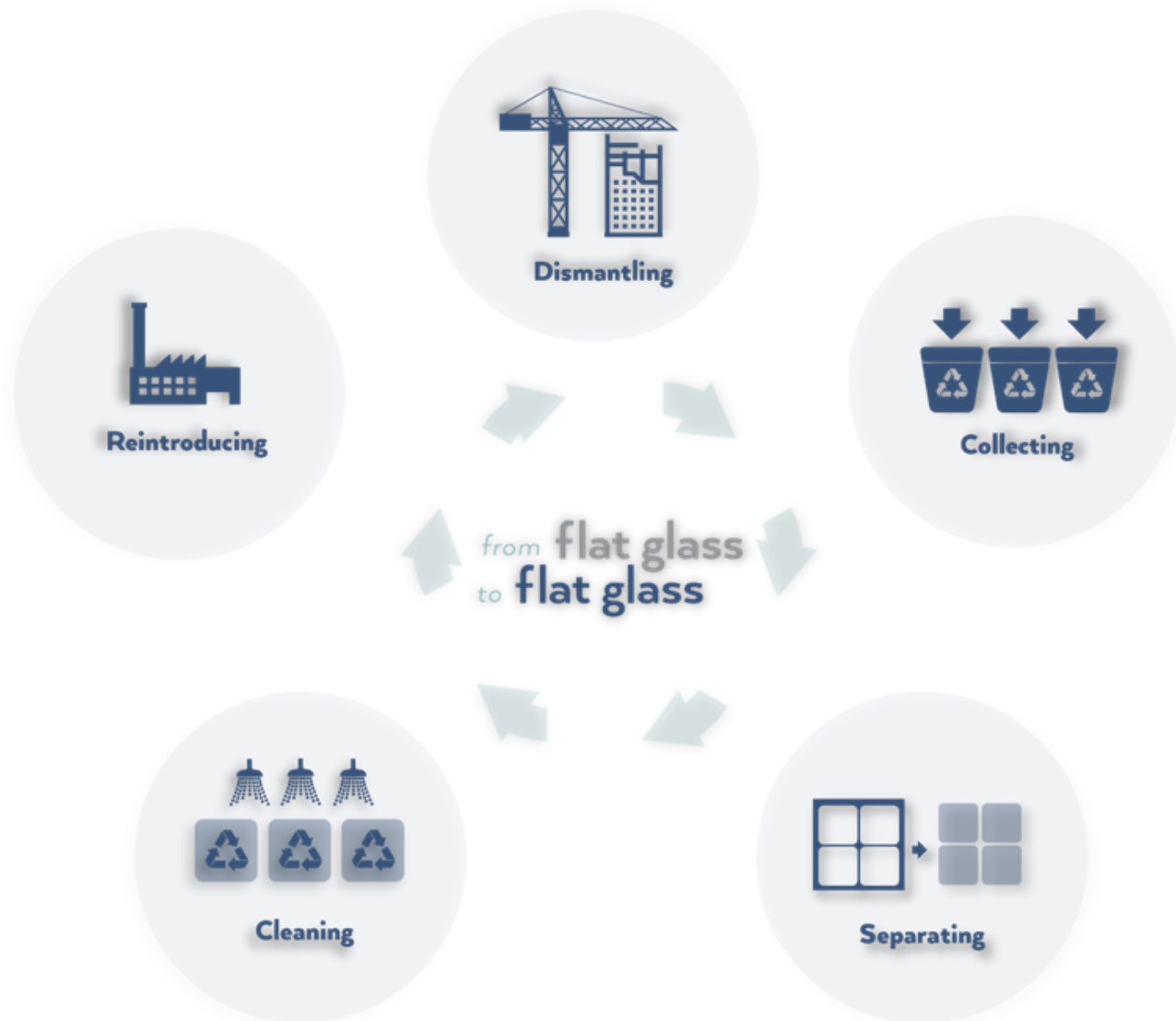
1t (tonne) of cullet saves  
1.2t (tonne) of raw materials  
310kg CO<sub>2</sub> in glass manufacturing  
+/- 600kg CO<sub>2</sub> (including CO<sub>2</sub> saved upstream)

## CHALLENGES

- ✓ COLLECTION AND SORTING
- ✓ HIGHEST QUALITY LEVELS REQUIRED
- ✓ COST-BENEFIT BALANCE
- ✓ COMPETITION

**MAIN SUCCESS FACTOR:**  
COOPERATION ACROSS THE SECTOR

## OBJECTIVE: CLOSED-LOOP RECYCLING FROM FLAT TO FLAT GLASS





# FROM LOW TO NEARLY ZERO CARBON GLASS

## LOW-CARBON GLASS

TODAY



## GOING FURTHER ...



TECHNOLOGY READINESS

GLASS QUALITY

AVAILABILITY OF DECARBONISED ENERGY

COST OF PRODUCTION

COMPETITION & MARKET CONDITIONS

INVESTMENTS CYCLES



## PATIENCE NEEDED

# LIFE-CYCLE THINKING IN BUILDINGS

## Types of Carbon in Buildings



### Embodied Carbon

The emissions from manufacturing, transportation, and installation of building materials.

### Operational Carbon

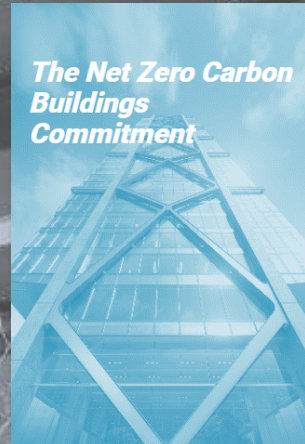
The emissions from a building's energy consumption.

## POORLY EFFICIENT BUILDINGS:

OPERATIONAL OVER 70% - EMBODIED BELOW 30%

## HIGH-PERFORMANCE BUILDINGS:

OPERATIONAL AS LOW AS 25% - EMBODIED OVER 75%



**REDUCE & OPTIMIZE  
ENERGY DEMAND  
+  
GENERATE BALANCE  
WITH RENEWABLES**





# CHANGE



*The transition to **sustainable and low-carbon buildings** is not a threat to the glass industry. It is **a driver of high added-value production.***

*The **European flat glass industry** takes at its role to manufacture the products needed for **the sustainable transformation of Europe's building stock.***



# OUR WAY TO GROW



RENEWABLE ENERGY

CARBON REDUCTION

CIRCULARITY

COMFORT

RESILIENCE

INNOVATION

URBANISATION

DURABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY

RENOVATION

EFFICIENCY

EMOBILITY

SHARED ECONOMY

DIGITALIZATION

PEOPLE-CENTRIC



2050

# FLAT GLASS IN CLIMATE-NEUTRAL EUROPE

TRIGGERING A VIRTUOUS  
DECARBONISATION CYCLE

## THANK YOU!

[BERTRAND.CAZES@GLASSFOREUROPE.COM](mailto:BERTRAND.CAZES@GLASSFOREUROPE.COM)

BUILDINGS

ENERGY

CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENT

JOBS

INVESTMENTS

INNOVATION

TRANSPORT