THE FLAT GLASS SECTOR IN THE EU

- 60 industrial installations in 12 countries, where all types of flat glass are melted and produced: float glass, rolled glass, patterned and cast glass.
- 10 million tonnes of flat glass produced annually in the EU.
- 5 world leaders manufacturing flat glass in Europe.
- 15 Billion Euros turnover in Europe.
- Over 1000 companies processing and transforming flat glass into advanced glass and glazing products for buildings, cars and all other sectors of the economy.
- 100,000 workers directly employed in the flat glass sector in manufacturing, R&D, administration, processing and fabrication.
- Over 100 million Euros invested annually in R&D, product innovation and advanced manufacturing.

GLASS FOR EUROPE is the trade association for Europe’s flat glass sector. Flat glass is the material that goes into a variety of end products, primarily in windows and facades for buildings, windscreen and windows for automotive and transport as well as solar energy equipment, electronics, furniture and appliances. Glass for Europe brings together multinational firms that are the world leaders in flat glass manufacturing and over one thousand SMEs from all across Europe, to represent the whole flat glass value-chain. It is composed of flat glass manufacturers, AGC Glass Europe, Guardian, NSG Group, Saint-Gobain Glass Industry and Şişecam-Trakya Cam. It works in association with Carlex, a leading automotive glass processor, and national partners gathering building glass processors and transformers from all over Europe.

MEMBERS

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In buildings, where we spend 80% of our time, it provides daylight whose benefits in terms of sensation of well-being, increased focus, learning, productivity and the main tenance as well as the recovery of good health conditions are well documented. Glass contributes to comfort in many other ways: its acoustics and insulation properties, the absence of adverse effect on indoor air quality, its easy maintenance, its stylish effect, etc. No wonder, glass is a material valued in so many sectors!

**Comfort**

The transparency of glass makes it a unique material. Be it in cars or in buildings, it is made to look through and to connect us to the outside environment.

**Innovation**

Innovation in glass is most often invisible, yet we benefit from it every day.

Beneath increased performance in energy efficiency, resistance and acoustics, we experience the digital world thanks to touch-screen glass technologies. High-tech glass allows unprecedented interactions when used in smart windows and mirrors and it can incorporate solar-power generating cells, audiovisual displays or OLED lighting. Glass functionalities keep expanding beyond our imagination to make our homes and buildings smarter. In transport, glass is the substrate for the integration of sensors, cameras and receptors which link our cars to enable the automated driving revolution and to offer a new and always safer driving experience.

**Safety**

Glass is designed to last for decades, to endure all weather conditions and usages while always maintaining its resistance and safety properties.

In buildings, safety glass is used to prevent people and objects from falling down, to slow down the spread of fire in buildings or to resist to fire guns’ bullets. In vehicles, it is meant to reduce the risk of fatal injuries for passengers in case of accidents. Although the glass property means it acts as a shield, no compromise on durability, transparency and unaltered visibility is possible when developing ever lighter but stronger glass.

**Energy**

Clean energy in all its facets is intertwined with glass technologies.

In Europe, more than 100 million tonnes of CO$_2$ could be saved annually if buildings were equipped with adequate energy-efficient glazing technologies, insulating against the cold and avoiding over-heating in hot and sunny conditions. Extra-clear glass helps maximizing electricity generation in photovoltaic modules, which can now be integrated into the glass façade of buildings. The switch to electromobility is enabled with lighter and better insulating glass pieces as well as photovoltaic sunroof to save power and extend battery ranges. Vacuum glazing, smart glass, electrochromic glazing, fully transparent photovoltaic cells directly integrated into the insulating glass unit: clean energy in all its facets is intertwined with glass technologies.

**Sustainability**

Clean energy in all its facets is intertwined with glass technologies.

Throughout its life-cycle, glass carries minimal environmental impacts as its manufacturing requires low quantity of water and generates very little waste or other pollutants. Although glass requires energy to be produced, it helps save vast amount of energy in its main applications, i.e. in windows and buildings. Coming from earth, produced responsibly, fully recyclable, it protects our climate and our planet as a net CO$_2$ saving material.

**Design**

Glass brings a unique aesthetics while allowing you to see further.

From the Cathedrals of the Medieval Ages to contemporary architecture, in car design, furniture and even your latest smartphones, glass contributes distinctively to sleek design. From perfectly flat surfaces to the warmth of smooth curves, with inimitable colour effects or the highest transparency, glass brings a unique aesthetics while allowing you to see further.