Metals Academy 5 - 2026 Programme



Monday 4 May (PM) to Thursday 7 May 2026

Grande Abbaye de La Ramée – Jodoigne, Belgium

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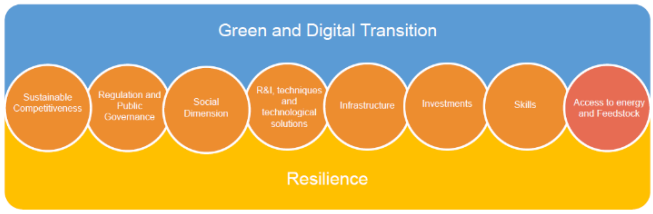
We are pleased to welcome you to the Metals Academy 5 that is addressed to participants from associations, companies, federations, and industry members, either newcomers or members of staff simply interested in learning more background information on the “metals industry”.

The sessions, which will alternate between plenary lectures and hands-on exercises, will all be given by professionals, who aim at transmitting and sharing existing knowledge on metals and providing you with a toolkit that will help you deal with the various industrial, but also regulatory and environmental aspects of your job, from a multi-metallic perspective.

This edition will -like the last ones- take place at ChâteauForm, Grande Abbaye de la Ramée (Jodoigne).

The numerous pleasures the hotel has to offer, the social events and outside activities will allow you to savour typical Belgian hospitality and build a network.

We look forward to welcoming you for this 5th edition in 2026.

Monday 4 May - Day 1	
Chair: Violaine Verougstraete	
Arrival	**12:00 - 12:30**
Lunch	**12:30 - 13:30**
Coffee & Tea break will be foreseen during the afternoon sessions	
Introduction to metals	
Why do we use metals, why are they essential for society?	
Historical background, showing the importance of metals and their uses throughout the ages. Why do we want and need to use metals today? General overview of terminology, definitions, and specific characteristics of metals and alloys, highlighting connections between metals, essential uses and key features for modern society (circularity, durability and technical function)	**13:30-15:15** *Organising Committee* *In Memoriam* *Staf Laget*
Basics in Metallurgy	
A general overview of main production, refining & recycling processes	**15:45- 17:00** *Joris Kenis* *Aurubis*
Introduction to the Transition Pathway for metals	
8 building blocks have been identified in the TP for metals to both accelerate the metals industry's green and digital transition while also making the industry resilient. These blocks offer a full lifecycle perspective and will serve as framework for the session. 	**17:15-17:45** *Simon Cook* *Metals Regulation*
Introductory apéritif followed by dinner & evening activities	**From 19:00**

Tuesday 5 May - Day 2	
Chair: Howard Winbow	
Coffee/Tea breaks will be foreseen during the morning/afternoon sessions	
The Metals Age	
"Metals as enablers" *Metals have been brought into focus as the Critical and Strategic enablers for the green and digital transitions but also play role in defence.* *Can these uses be balanced with sustainable and responsible management goals?*	
An overview of the regulatory landscape and initiatives impacting/supporting metals resources (at EU and international level)?	**09:00-10:00** *Howard Winbow* *IZA*
What are the key applications and uses of metals driving the demand (and hence, the resources need) today? What can we expect for tomorrow? Can this be anticipated?	**10:00-11:00** *Wouter Ghyoot* *Umicore*
Reserve & Resource Management *Metal resources can come from demand management, primary extraction and recycling.* *This session will explore the three axes both from political and technical levels*	
Questions that will be addressed include e.g.: - Can/should industry also work on the demand side? - Key hurdles for the implementation of circularity? - Can full value chains be limited to one jurisdiction? - Is substitution an opportunity or a threat?	**11:30-12:30** *Eric Pirard* *Liège University*
Lunch	**12:30-14:00**
Reserve & Resource Management (ctd)	
Recycling: Complexities in recycling processes -illustrating the metals wheel in practice when applied to end-products	**14:00-15:30** *Markus A. Reuter* *ElvalHalcor*
Interactive modules (1st Session)	
Module 1: Key elements in chemicals management	
What do you need to know to have a basic understanding of the chemicals management toolbox? How to find your way in metals (eco)toxicology and its alphabet soup (e.g., PNEC, CMR, DNEL, SSD, OEL, EQS)? Why is risk a driver?	**16:00-17:30** *Frank Van Assche* *Organising Committee* *Violaine Verougstraete* *European Metals*
Module 2: Key elements in metals marketing	
What do you need to know about metals pricing, metal markets and value chains if you are not a marketing person?	**16:00-17:30** *Toktar Turbay* *London Metals Exchange*

Module 3: Key elements in communication	
How might AI influence the way we already communicate? What changes might this bring in the coming 3-5 years? How do we become better at trusting humans than AI?	**16:00-17:30** *Heinrich Pecina* *WKO*
Evening activity	**TBC**
Apéritif followed by dinner	**20:00**

Wednesday 6 May - Day 3	
Chair: Frank Van Assche	
Coffee/Tea breaks will be foreseen during the morning/afternoon sessions	
"Hard to abate industries" when it comes to decarbonisation	
The energy transition is progressing in most hard-to-abate sectors, including metals. Yet net-zero scenarios by 2050 will require to catalyse investments, establish clear carbon standards and transparency in emissions and maximise electrification through low-carbon sources. What can the metals sector do?	
Practical cases	
Metals producer company	**9:10-9:40** *Wim Van der Stricht* *Arcelor Mittal*
Metals recycling company	**9:40-10:10** *Dirk Vandenberghe* *Aurubis*
Metals mining company	**10:10-10:40** *Ottomar Brussee* *Boliden*
Q&A Session	**10:40-11:10** *All*
Emerging technologies	
The Power of Understanding - defossilisation vs. decarbonization	**11:40-12:30** *Jan Mertens* *Engie*
Lunch	**12:30-14:00**
Interactive modules (2nd Session)	
Module 1: Key elements in chemicals management	
What do you need to know to have a basic understanding of the chemicals management toolbox? How to find your way in metals (eco)toxicology and its alphabet soup (e.g., PNEC, CMR, DNEL, SSD, OEL, EQS)? Why is risk a driver?	**14:15-15:45** *Frank Van Assche* *Organising Committee* *Violaine Verougstraete* *European Metals*
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Keynote speaker	
"Business meets Diplomacy" – Lessons & Take-Aways	**16:45-18:00** *Robert J. Weibel* *CENAD*
Certificates & Apéritif followed by dinner	**19:00**

Thursday 7 May - Day 4	
Chair: Mark Mistry	
Coffee/Tea breaks will be foreseen during the morning/afternoon sessions	
The Metals Age, also tomorrow	
Rolling out the metals age requires also to address society's ethical expectations and have at hand the appropriate skills. What do we need to appear as a credible and attractive sector?	
What about the social dimension?	
Talking about due diligence, link investments and reporting on companies' operations?	**9:00-10:30** *Mark Mistry* *Nickel Institute*
Skills	
How to build on the sector's human capital?	**11:00-12:30** *Karina Maldonado-Mariscal* *TU Dortmund University*
Lunch	**12:30-13:30**
Business - Regulatory - Communication Case for the whole group	
Group Exercise	**13:30-16:00** *Howard Winbow* *IZA*
Conclusions & closure of the Metals Academy	**16:00-16:30**