



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 11 February 2013

6299/13

**IND 36
COMPET 86**

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: "Competitiveness" Council
Subject: Information point on the challenges facing the European steel industry
(Tabled by Belgium in the framework of the Competitiveness Council on
19 February 2013)

Delegations will find attached a note from the Belgian Delegation on the above-mentioned topic with a view to AOB item 9 at the Competitiveness Council on 19 February 2013.

Information point on the challenges facing the European steel industry

(Tabled by Belgium in the framework of the Competitiveness Council on 19 February 2013)

In October 2010 the Commission launched a flagship initiative entitled "An integrated industrial policy for the globalisation era. Putting competition and sustainability at centre stage"¹. This initiative was updated on 10 October 2012². In that regard the Commission initiated sectoral plans, notably in the motor vehicle and construction industries.

With a turnover of EUR 150 billion, about 410 000 highly skilled jobs, an annual production of 200 million tons and over 500 production sites spread across 23 Member States, the European steel industry merits special attention at European level, not only because it too is affected by the crisis but above all because the future of European industry as a whole will depend on that of the European steel industry.

Vice-President TAJANI brought together firms in the steel industry, the social partners and the fifteen Member States with significant levels of steel production at the 3rd round table on the steel industry on 12 February 2013. A steel plan is already scheduled for June 2013.

Hence pursuant to Article 173 TFEU and taking particular note of the challenges and requirements identified by the social partners at the 3rd steel industry round table, Belgium emphasises the need both to foster close coordination between the Member States in question and the Commission and to follow up the steel initiative adopted by the Commission. It calls on the Commission departments to take systematic account of the cumulative impact of EU policies on steel, in particular research and innovation, trade policy, employment and skills and energy and the climate.

¹ 27 October 2010.

² "Industrial Policy Communication update: A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery".