



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on a new strategy for the Union's industry

Delegations will find attached draft Council conclusions on "A new strategy for the Union's industry", with a view to the discussion by the Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) Working Party at its meeting on 11 April 2017.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON "A NEW STRATEGY FOR THE UNION'S
INDUSTRY"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the conclusions of the **European Council** of 15 December 2016, which called on the Council and the Commission to evaluate the impact of mainstreaming industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives, and to consider concrete action to strengthen and modernise the industrial base of the Single Market¹;

- (1) **UNDERLINES** the essential role of industry as a cornerstone for growth and employment in Europe;
- (2) **EMPHASISES** the importance of strengthening and modernising a strong industrial base in Europe and of ensuring the Union's industrial competitiveness by putting innovation and digitalisation at the centre of all initiatives, covering both modern industries with high-growth potential and more traditional branches of industry that often face the challenges of rapid economic changes in today's globalised world and the risk of delocalisation;
- (3) **CALLS** on the Commission to provide the Council with an evaluation of the impact of mainstreaming industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives as called for by the **European Council**, by the end of October 2017, and looks forward to examining this evaluation;
- (4) **STRESSES** in this context the need for the Commission to produce a comprehensive overview of the cumulative effects of EU policies that have an impact on the competitiveness of the Union's industry;

¹ Doc. **EUCO 34/16** of 15 December 2016, Paragraph 19.

- (5) CALLS on the Commission to consider concrete action to strengthen and modernise the industrial base of the Single Market and to report to the Council on its plans for such action by the end of 2017 at the latest;
- (6) INVITES the Commission, in considering such concrete action, to weigh the advisability of specific measures in support of action taken in the Member States to ensure that the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of the Union's industry exist (excluding any harmonisation of the laws and regulations of the Member States), and, if appropriate, to submit a proposal to the European Parliament and to the Council; INVITES the Commission to inform the Council by the end of 2017 on the advisability of such a proposal;
- (7) CALLS on the Commission, in considering concrete action to strengthen and modernise the industrial base of the Single Market, to take a comprehensive approach to industry, ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises to larger undertakings.
