



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 12 October 2017
(OR. en)

13145/17

COMPET 668
IND 256
MI 705

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on "A renewed EU Industry Policy Strategy"

Delegations will find attached a Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on "A renewed EU Industry Policy Strategy" with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 16 October 2017.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON
"A RENEWED EU INDUSTRY POLICY STRATEGY"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- the conclusions of the European Council of June 2017 which underlined the essential role of industry as a major driver for growth, employment and innovation in Europe and called for concrete action to ensure a strong and competitive industrial base of the Single Market¹;
 - the Council conclusions of May 2017 on a future EU industrial policy strategy² which call on the Commission to provide a holistic EU industrial policy strategy for the future in time for the European Council meeting in spring 2018 as well as an assessment of the impact of mainstreaming industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives taken since the beginning of 2015,
1. WELCOMES the Commission's communication "Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry - A renewed EU Industry Policy Strategy"³ presented on 13 September 2017 together with a list of key actions for a smart, innovative and sustainable industry⁴;
 2. CONSIDERS that the communication is an important signal and a useful first step towards developing a future EU industrial strategy, providing a comprehensive inventory of short-term initiatives undertaken or currently being prepared by the Commission, creating the basis for the evaluation of mainstreaming of industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives, as requested by the Council in May 2017;

¹ Doc. EUCO 8/17, paragraph 15.

² Doc. 9760/17.

³ Doc. 12202/17.

⁴ Doc. 12202/17 ADD 1.

3. WELCOMES the Commission's approach which is based on innovation, digital transformation, resource efficiency, human capital and access to European and global value chains, and ACKNOWLEDGES that the initiatives listed, if properly and timely implemented by all actors involved, could have a positive effect on the Single Market and on industry;
4. In this context, CALLS ON the Commission to build upon the communication in order to further develop a comprehensive EU industrial strategy with a focus on 2030 and beyond, including medium to long-term strategic objectives and targets for industry and to be accompanied by an action plan with concrete measures;
5. STRESSES the importance of concrete actions to enable the European industry, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to tackle the imminent challenges and to maximise the benefits of digitalisation, uptake of innovation and transformation to sustainable technologies, being conducive to investment and efficient allocation of resources, and URGES the Commission to take this into account when preparing proposals for the next multiannual financial framework;
6. EMPHASISES the importance of partnership and dialogue with Member States and stakeholders, including with a view to the set up of a High Level Industrial Roundtable, and CALLS ON the Commission to consult with Member States in the preparation of any future communications and initiatives;
7. UNDERLINES the strategic role of the Competitiveness Council in mainstreaming industrial competitiveness, providing political guidance and momentum to this process, and therefore STRESSES Member States' readiness to be actively involved in the development of a substantial long-term strategy;
8. INVITES the Commission to consider concrete mechanisms to effectively monitor the implementation of the strategy, and in this context CALLS ON the Commission to present at regular intervals progress reports to the Competitiveness Council; this monitoring mechanism should also include procedures for adapting the strategy, if necessary, to the changing needs of industry.