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NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Delegations

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Subject: Draft Council conclusions on "A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy"

Delegations will find attached a revised Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on "A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy" with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 23 October 2017.

Changes compared to document 13145/17 are indicated in **bold underlined** for additions and ~~striketrough~~ for deletions.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON
"A RENEWED EU INDUSTRIAL 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 Industrial 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-**oriented** EU industrial strategy, providing a comprehensive inventory of ~~short term~~ **those** initiatives **already** 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 **transition to a low-carbon and circular economy**, human capital, **investment** and access to European and global value chains **open and rules-based trade**, and ACKNOWLEDGES that **many of** the initiatives listed, if properly and timely implemented **properly and in a timely manner** by all actors involved, ~~could~~ **should** have a positive effect on **deepening** the Single Market and on **enhancing the competitiveness of European** 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;~~
- 5.4. STRESSES **RECOGNISES** the importance of concrete actions ~~to~~ **for** enable **enabling** the European industry, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to tackle the ~~imminent~~ **present and future** challenges and to maximise the benefits of digitalisation, uptake of innovation and transformation to sustainable technologies **and for ensuring that industry is equipped with the right set of skills**, being; **UNDERLINES the need to create a good regulatory environment which is** conducive to investment and efficient allocation of ~~resources~~ **allocates** resources **efficiently, whilst recognising the particular challenges faced by energy-intensive industries**, and **URGES INVITES** the Commission to take this into account when preparing proposals for **assess how the programmes and instruments within** the next multiannual financial framework **can support the implementation of the aforementioned aspects**;
5. **In this context, CALLS ON the Commission to build upon the communication in order to:**
- a) **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; and**
 - b) **provide an assessment of the impact of mainstreaming industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives taken since the beginning of 2015, as requested by the Council in May 2017;**

6. **Given the significance of industrial policy and its cross-cutting nature, STRESSES the importance of ensuring an open, transparent and inclusive process in the development of the future EU industrial policy; in this regard, EMPHASISES the importance of need for** partnership and dialogue with Member States, **regions** and stakeholders, including with a view to the **proposed setting** 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~~ **commitment** to be actively involved in the development of a substantial long-term strategy;
8. INVITES the Commission to consider **a** 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 **with a view to the spring meetings of the European Council**; this monitoring mechanism should also include procedures for adapting the strategy, if necessary, **to respond** ~~to the changing needs of~~ **evolving conditions faced by** industry.