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NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	<i>Preparation of the Competitiveness Council of 30 November and 1 December 2017</i> EU industrial strategy for the future a) Presidency report - <i>Exchange of views</i>

Delegations will find attached a Presidency note on the EU industrial strategy for the future with a view to the exchange of views at the Competitiveness Council on 30 November 2017.

EU industrial strategy for the future**Presidency note**

European industry is world leader in many areas and provides jobs for millions of people. But at the same time, it is facing challenges in the rapidly changing business and technological environment and global competition is more intense than ever before. The competitiveness of EU industry is directly dependent on its ability to continuously adapt and innovate by investing in new technologies, digitalising its industrial base and transitioning to a sustainable low-carbon and circular economy.

After calls for action by Council, European Parliament and stakeholders the Commission presented a renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy on 13 September 2017. The communication is an important message to EU industry and a useful first step towards developing a holistic EU industrial strategy. Nevertheless, it takes only a very cautious attitude on providing a long-term strategic approach and is only providing a comprehensive inventory of those initiatives already undertaken or currently being prepared by the Commission. It also reiterated the objective to raise the contribution of industry to GDP to 20% by 2020.

European industry needs a future-oriented long-term policy, for 2030 and beyond, which would take into account the strengths and diversity of the current industrial base across Member States, and capture the opportunities in the megatrends that can be identified already today in the fields of digitalisation, energy and sustainable technologies. It is crucial to develop long-term objectives and policy measures in close cooperation between industry, Commission, Council and other entities.

To provide input for developing the EU Industrial Strategy further, Council working parties (the High Level Working Group and the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth) held discussions on: 1) possible objectives and indicators and their monitoring mechanism, and 2) policy measures needed in the long term. The Presidency summarised the discussions and Member States' written input in a Presidency report. Based on the report the current trio will initiate discussions to provide content from the Council's side to develop a long-term strategy for EU industries.

In continuation of the discussions on the long-term EU industrial policy we kindly ask you to focus your interventions on the following questions:

1. What should be the medium and long-term objectives of the EU industrial policy?
2. Which policy instruments are of a high priority and should be definitely taken up by the Commission and Member States in the long term ?
