



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 13 March 2019
(OR. en)

7439/19

COMPET 245
IND 84
MI 251

NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: Draft Council conclusions on an EU Industrial Policy: Vision for 2030

Delegations will find attached a Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on an EU Industrial Policy: Vision for 2030, with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 15 March 2019.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON
AN EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY: VISION FOR 2030**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING

- the Council conclusions of May 2017 on "A future EU industrial policy strategy"¹, the Council conclusions of November 2017 on "A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy"², the Council conclusions of March 2018 on "EU industrial policy strategy for competitiveness, growth and innovation"³, the Council conclusions of November 2018 on "A future EU Industrial Policy Strategy"⁴ as well as the European Council conclusions of March 2018⁵ [and March 2019 (tbc)] which all emphasised the need for a comprehensive and long-term EU industrial policy strategy;
 - the Council conclusions of February 2019 on the Coordinated Plan on the Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence Made in Europe⁶;
 - the Council conclusions of March 2018 on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights⁷,
1. UNDERLINES the crucial role of industry for driving sustainable growth, employment and economic development in Europe, STRESSES its important contribution to the prosperity of the EU's regions, societies and citizens by responsibly creating value, promoting innovation, contributing to environment and climate goals, while providing stability, ensuring social cohesion and inclusiveness and reinforcing economic convergence, and CALLS FOR a sustainable industrial development and for further strengthening the industrial base in Europe;

1 Doc. 9760/17.
2 Doc. 15223/17.
3 Doc. 7037/18.
4 Doc. 14832/18.
5 Doc. EUCO 1/18, paragraph 1.
6 Doc. 6331/19.
7 Doc. 6681/18.

2. ACKNOWLEDGES that EU industry is faced with increasing challenges stemming from recent developments in the global context, including rising competition in the global markets, growing uncertainty in international trade, including some protectionist trade measures and ambitious industrial strategies of third countries; STRESSES the importance of mobilising all EU policies, applying the better regulation principles and fostering a growth-friendly regulatory environment with the aim of strengthening the competitiveness of the EU industry so as to enable it to compete globally on a level playing field;
3. HIGHLIGHTS the need for private and public investments in research, innovation, digitalisation, artificial intelligence and clean technologies to further consolidate and develop a strong and competitive EU industrial base; STRESSES the importance of joining forces at European level and of the support provided by the EU programmes under the next multiannual financial framework and ENCOURAGES Member States to orientate national, regional and local budgets towards such purposes;
4. RECALLS that it is essential to continue developing, improving and updating the European intellectual property frameworks, so as to ensure that ideas and inventions can be effectively developed and brought to the market, in particular by and for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), like young innovative companies, to the benefit of the European economy and society at large; LOOKS FORWARD TO the launch of the Unitary Patent system;
5. CALLS FOR further support to the implementation of the Digitising European Industry strategy, notably through a European network of Digital Innovation Hubs, which help start-ups, SMEs and mid-caps in their digital transformation, allowing them to "test before invest", to find investments and training opportunities and to become part of an innovation ecosystem with broad networking opportunities; EMPHASISES in this regard the importance of the programmes under the next multiannual financial framework such as the new Digital Europe Programme;

6. CALLS FOR action to increase Europe's talent pool and ensure the availability of the skills needed for strengthening the EU's industrial competitiveness in the light of the ongoing industrial transformation and the development and uptake of artificial intelligence and STRONGLY RECOMMENDS promoting training and education, at all levels, for science, technology, engineering and mathematics, enhanced computer literacy, languages and arts; UNDERLINES the importance of upskilling and reskilling the EU's existing workforce; ENCOURAGES to take into consideration social inclusiveness and gender balance in this complex process;
7. NOTES with interest the Commission's communication on "A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy"⁸; CONSIDERS that the transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy is an opportunity for EU industry to excel amongst its competitors and develop competitive advantages at global level through innovation, new technologies and products; STRESSES the role of a strong EU industrial base for the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and the importance of a supportive, cost-effective and predictable EU regulatory framework together with an adequate financial support for enabling a successful adaptation to this transition;
8. ACKNOWLEDGES the situation of certain sectors, such as the energy-intensive ones, that are particularly affected by the ongoing industrial transformation and face difficulties in adapting to the changing economic and regulatory environment; HIGHLIGHTS the need for creating a European and global market for low-emissions products; INVITES the Commission and Member States to take into account the specific needs of energy-intensive industries when developing or updating strategies or plans with a perspective to 2030 and beyond, with a view to facilitating their transition to a climate-neutral economy and maintaining their competitiveness; AWAITS with interest the industrial transformation master plan for energy-intensive industries that will be developed by the High Level Group on Energy-Intensive Industries;

⁸ Doc. 15011/18.

9. STRESSES that a strong and well-functioning Single Market is essential for European industry to reap its benefits and exploit its opportunities; CALLS FOR a proper and timely implementation, application and enforcement of Single Market rules in all Member States; WELCOMES the Commission's communication on "Harmonised standards: Enhancing transparency and legal certainty for a fully functioning Single Market"⁹ and ENCOURAGES all actors involved to make further progress with regard to inclusiveness, legal certainty and predictability aiming at a rapid delivery of the harmonised standards and their benefits to enterprises and consumers; SUPPORTS the work developed under the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) to promote a shared vision for improving the European standardisation system and ENCOURAGES all stakeholders to take it duly into consideration and implement it; therefore CALLS UPON the Commission to continue its work beyond 2019, particularly in the areas of education on standardisation, raising awareness of the role of standardisation among public authorities and using standards in public procurement; UNDERLINES the importance of the European industry's role in driving the European standardisation system and STRONGLY RECOMMENDS promoting the European standardisation system at international level;
10. EMPHASISES the importance of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises for the competitiveness of the EU industry and the contribution of SME internationalisation to growth and WELCOMES the achievements of the Small Business Act for Europe in applying the "Think Small First" principle, fostering entrepreneurship, simplifying the regulatory environment and removing barriers to their development, while taking into account the principles of better regulation; INVITES the Commission to step up support to SMEs regarding access to markets, innovation and finance, with a particular view to the ongoing industrial transformation process, including digitalisation, and therefore CALLS ON the Commission to consider updating the Small Business Act for Europe with a view to the inclusion of a new "digital principle";

⁹ Doc. 14657/18.

11. HIGHLIGHTS that clusters are key for the implementation of the EU industrial policy strategy as they enable strategic and structured collaboration along and across EU value chains; SUPPORTS European cluster policy initiatives as an important tool for promoting regional industrial modernisation supporting the growth of SMEs, encouraging smart specialisation and strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration in order to facilitate structural change and the development of emerging industries; NOTES the potential of the future Single Market Programme to boost industrial modernisation through joint cluster initiatives;

12. STRESSES the importance of strong European industrial value chains for improving industrial competitiveness and security of supply, fighting climate change, enhancing technological development, innovation and investment, and developing European industrial leadership in key areas of the economy; EMPHASISES the importance of developing integrated industrial projects with the aim of enabling EU industry to face rising international competition and creating and maintaining high value-added activities in Europe; CONSIDERS the initiative for creating a competitive manufacturing value chain for batteries in Europe as an example of successful cooperation in priority areas; TAKES NOTE with interest of the work carried out by the Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest in identifying six additional key strategic value chains for joint or coordinated investments and actions in the fields of Connected, automated and electric vehicles, Smart Health, Low-carbon industries, Hydrogen technologies and systems, Industrial Internet of Things, and Cybersecurity, in addition to the ongoing work on microelectronics, high-performance computing and batteries; AWAITS with interest the recommendations of the Strategic Forum for close cooperation in these areas as well as in other areas of European strategic interest;

13. REITERATES the Council's call, supported by the European industry, for a comprehensive and long-term EU industrial policy strategy with a clear vision for 2030, accompanied by a specific action plan, that should become a top priority for the strategic agenda of the next Commission and be put in place at the beginning of the new EU institutional cycle; STRONGLY ENCOURAGES the Commission to elaborate this strategy in close consultation with Member States and stakeholders and to consider setting political targets and indicators; in addition CALLS FOR an update of sectoral industrial strategies in order to be adapted to the current technological developments;
14. RECALLS the horizontal role given to the Competitiveness Council, with respect to enhancing competitiveness and growth, to review all relevant horizontal and sectoral legislative and policy proposals considered likely to have an impact on competitiveness; REITERATES that the Competitiveness Council should play a key role in the definition and strategic monitoring of the long-term EU industrial strategy as well as of other key priorities from the strategic agenda of the EU which will be elaborated during the next institutional cycle.
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