



Council of the  
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#### NOTE

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From: Presidency  
To: Delegations

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Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 19/2020: "Digitising European Industry: an ambitious initiative whose success depends on the continued commitment of the EU, governments and businesses"

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Delegations will find attached a Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 19/2020: "Digitising European Industry: an ambitious initiative whose success depends on the continued commitment of the EU, governments and businesses", with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 4 November 2020.

**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON****the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 19/2020:****"Digitising European Industry: an ambitious initiative whose success depends on the continued commitment of the EU, governments and businesses"**

## THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. WELCOMES the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 19/2020: „Digitising European Industry: an ambitious initiative whose success depends on the continued commitment of the EU, governments and businesses“ and TAKES NOTE of the Court's observations;
2. STRESSES the high relevance of digitalisation to increase productivity, strengthen competitiveness and secure a high degree of resilience of European companies;
3. ACKNOWLEDGES that the European Court of Auditors highlights the importance of a successful digitalisation of the European economy and the supportive role of a coordinated network of European Digital Innovation Hubs in assisting companies, notably SMEs, in grasping digital opportunities; STRESSES the need for a broad coverage of all European regions by a network of European Digital Innovation Hubs;
4. STRESSES the importance of increasing further public and private investments in digitalisation projects and of leveraging European Funding and Investment Programmes, and notably the Recovery & Resilience Facility, to that effect;

5. WELCOMES the activities of the European Commission in the framework of the Digitising European Industry Initiative, which complement and strengthen Member States' policies and APPRECIATES the cooperation with the European Commission in this field;
  6. ASKS the European Commission to take the European Court of Auditors' special report No 19/2020 and its recommendations into account in policies to increase efficiency of digitalisation measures and activities;
  7. NOTES that a set of clearly defined indicators and targets could contribute to monitor the success of the measures undertaken in the Digitising European Industry Initiative and WELCOMES in this respect that EU regulations under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) such as the Digital Europe Programme and the European Structural and Investment Funds foresee such monitoring.
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