



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

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"

Delegations will find attached the draft Council conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 19/2020 entitled "Digitising European Industry: an ambitious initiative whose success depends on the continued commitment of the EU, governments and businesses", after the discussion at the informal videoconference of the members of the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) on 23 November 2020, which will be submitted to Coreper for approval as a "I" item.

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. 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 and Member States by a network of European Digital Innovation Hubs; RECOGNISES the role of national and regional entities and SME intermediaries in Member States for a better coordination at EU and national levels;
3. STRESSES the high relevance of digitalisation to increase productivity, strengthen competitiveness and secure a high degree of resilience of European industrial ecosystems and companies, especially SMEs including microenterprises;
4. STRESSES the importance of high investments in digitalisation and connectivity projects and of leveraging European funding and investment programmes, and notably the Recovery and 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 monitoring with a set of clearly defined indicators and targets could facilitate future discussions on the success of the measures undertaken in the Digitising European Industry Initiative and ENCOURAGES such monitoring, for instance, in the Digital Europe Programme, the Single Market Programme, the InvestEU programme and the European Structural and Investment Funds.
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