

## **Chambers back Council's call for a real EU industrial strategy**

EUROCHAMBRES welcomed today's Competitiveness Council conclusions, reiterating the need to develop a comprehensive EU industrial policy strategy with a focus on 2030 and beyond, with clear objectives and actions.

From a Chamber perspective, the September industrial policy communication of the Commission reveals a poverty of ambition, giving up on previously set goals and avoiding any new objectives. *"The Council is right that a mere inventory of ongoing and forthcoming actions from the Commission does not provide added value to the EU's growth and jobs agenda. It is therefore totally understandable that the Council calls on the Commission to come forward with a real, hands-on strategy that could deliver concrete results"*, commented Arnaldo Abruzzini, CEO of EUROCHAMBRES.

A look at previous industrial policy communications reveals that the EU clearly underperforms on its goals. The Union is, for example, still far from achieving a 20% share of manufacturing in EU GDP or from expanding the trade in goods in the Internal Market to reach 25%, as defined in 2012.

Against this background, Chambers strongly support the Council's call on the Commission to update its industrial policy targets towards a mid-and long-term perspective. The member states are also right to demand a comprehensive strategy, including concrete initiatives that will tackle barriers to industrial growth and help EU industries to gain competitiveness. This strategy should be coherent with other policy fields like competition, climate and energy policy and must be reflected in the next Multiannual Financial Framework. A new [position paper](#), recently adopted by EUROCHAMBRES, outlines the main challenges that such a strategy must address.

*"A strategy without either goals or concrete actions is not a strategy. We expect the Commission to increase its efforts on boosting the industrial base of the economy, not to throw in the towel"*, concluded Mr Abruzzini.

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