

**Flavio Zanonato, Minister of Economic Development, Italy**  
**Arnaud Montebourg, Minister for Industrial Renewal, France**  
**José Manuel Soria, Minister of Industry, Tourism and Innovation, Spain**  
**Kostis Hatzidakis, Minister for Development and Competition, Greece**  
**Sabina Skrtic, Deputy Minister of Economy, Croatia**  
**Andrei Dominic Gereaa, Minister of Economy, Romania**  
**Dragomir Stoynev, Minister of Economy and Energy, Bulgaria**  
**Petr Burianek, Ambassador of the Czech Republic**  
**Zaiga Liepina, Deputy State Secretary at Ministry of Economy, Latvia**  
**Etienne Schneider, Minister for Economy and Foreign Trade, Luxemburg**  
**Jean-Claude Marcourt, Minister of Economy, Belgium**  
**Andreja Kert, Secretary of State at the Ministry for Economic Development, Slovenia**  
**Pedro Gonçalves, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Economy, Portugal**  
**Pavol Pavlis, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic**  
**Evaldas Gustas, Ministry of Economy, Lithuania**  
**Leonidas Markides, Ambassador of Cyprus**  
**Christian Cardona, Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, Malta**

### **Joint Communication**

#### **Second European Ministerial Conference of Friends of Industry**

**Rome, 30th of January 2014**

In the light of **the results achieved** at the first European Ministerial Conference of the Friends of Industry, held in Paris on October 23rd 2013, we reaffirm our hope that at the next European Council an ambitious Industrial Agenda for Europe can be adopted.

The current crisis is an even stronger incentive to continue to implement policies to reverse the declining trend and prepare for the economic recovery and European industrial renaissance.

Europe needs to capitalize on its industrial base, which remains a core part of its economy, and adapt it to the new societal challenges it is faced with in order to turn it into a real driver for growth and job creation in the long run. The political objective for industry in the European GDP to reach 20% by 2020 should be kept and assumed at all the decisions taking levels.

To this end, we agree on the need to strengthen governance by giving **greater emphasis on the industrial component of the Competitiveness Council**, notably by focusing on

the role of the **High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth** to support the real economy and industrial sectors that have suffered most from the crisis.

New concrete steps towards a new and ambitious competitiveness strategy which puts the industry of our countries at the heart of European decision-making process should be made.

The action of the European Union and of our countries must be designed to speed up the adjustment of industry to structural changes, as provided in **Art. 173 of the EU Treaty**.

We therefore ask that the next European Council shares our analysis and gives a clear mandate to the Competitiveness Council in this regard.

An **industrial compact** needs to work alongside and complement the Compact for Growth and Employment in order to reach the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

This compact should rely on a **2030 European energy and climate policy framework which is both predictable and efficient for the industrial sector**, notably as regards prevention of carbon leakage. To do so, it is important to define a target for greenhouse gas emission reductions with a view to reaching a balanced agreement at global level in 2015. A review clause should be considered, if proven justified by the results of the negotiations between the EU and third countries.

Moreover, new frameworks should be elaborated with the aim to reduce high energy prices in the EU, as the current situation weakens the European industry's global competitiveness.

The **strengthening of the industrial value chains** is a key issue to improve European competitiveness, vital for the EU industry. We need a long-term industrial policy that takes into account the growing interdependence between our companies, to warrant long term competitiveness of the EU industrial base and that ensures **coherence of the regulatory and policy frameworks**.

Industrial competitiveness factor should be incorporated into other policies to ensure cohesion between all actions undertaken by the EU.

We recognize the important contribution of the **manufacturing sector, including energy-intensive sector**, to the creation of added value and reindustrialization. The centrality of the manufacturing industry must be recognized as a booster of skilled jobs, innovation, export and international business growth.

We support in this area the choice of focusing on sectors in transition and drivers for growth and development of an advanced manufacturing system, by enhancing support to RDI and deployment of key enabling technologies and disruptive technologies.

A thriving EU industry needs a fully operational **Single Market** allowing businesses to operate within predictable, clear and consistent rules that stimulate trade and innovation.

The European rules on **competition and State aids** should be reconsidered in the light of the changes imposed by global competition, together with the creation of an effective

monitoring of grants awarded outside the EU, so that European companies are not disadvantaged compared to their international competitors provided that rules on fair competition among the European companies are maintained.

Funding should be diversified to help business creation and development, notably by focusing on the development of **non-bank financing**, such as venture capital which is of paramount importance for innovative SMEs, alongside with access to credit.

We must also support the development of **infrastructure** in the field of trans-European transport, energy and telecommunications which are of paramount importance for industrial development.

In the perspective of future challenges that European industry might be confronted with, we are now confident that European Institutions will be able to agree on an ambitious industrial package and agenda for a solid economic growth, sustainable in a long term perspective.