



**2022/2008(INI)**

20.6.2022

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on the implementation of the Updated New Industrial Strategy for Europe:  
aligning spending to policy  
(2022/2008(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Maria da Graça Carvalho

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

### *New industrial strategy in a post-COVID era*

1. Recalls that the new industrial strategy was updated to reflect the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to boost the recovery of the single market, and that this strategy will be key to enhancing EU competitiveness, delivering on the green and digital transitions and ensuring that the single market is better equipped to face future crises; recalls that a strong governance system and a digitalised market surveillance system are essential in order to relaunch and ensure the proper functioning and deepening of the single market; calls on the Commission to focus on ensuring that the industrial strategy helps to remove unjustified barriers to the single market and helps to avoid further fragmentation and diverging national approaches, while at the same time taking into account the need to strengthen consumer protection; recalls the importance of eliminating excessive bureaucracy and costs for SMEs and micro-enterprises operating in the single market;
2. Highlights the need for key Union policies to be considered in a holistic way within the industrial strategy, which should aim at aligning the different instruments and be fully integrated with existing initiatives; further stresses that the industrial strategy must be coherent and must safeguard and favour industrial competitiveness in all areas of European policy, while also ensuring consumer protection and progress towards environmental objectives; recalls, in this context, the importance of maintaining and further developing European leadership in strategic sectors, particularly for those sectors that proved to be essential during the COVID-19 pandemic; emphasises that European industrial policy must benefit all Member States; underlines the importance of maintaining an open dialogue with all industrial sectors and relevant stakeholders;
3. Recalls the uncoordinated restrictions that seriously disrupted the proper functioning of the internal market during the pandemic and led to major disruptions of supply chains in many industrial ecosystems, particularly in the food and pharmaceutical sectors; in this respect, underlines the need to prevent imbalances in the European food supply chain and to ensure food security, and to guarantee resilience with regard to pharmaceutical and medical production; also recalls that border controls and closures led to difficulties for cross-border or seasonal workers and underlines the importance of barrier-free movement; calls on the Commission to further assess the pandemic-related disruptions in cross-border value chains as the industrial strategy must provide for the completion of value chains in certain industries in order to promote the open strategic autonomy of the EU;
4. Welcomes the publication by the Commission of the EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles; recalls that the textile industry faces a slow recovery from the downfall during the pandemic, being affected also by the massive re-location of production sites in third countries; underlines the need to target SMEs as the main players in the sector;

### ***Industrial strategy and the situation in Ukraine***

5. Underlines that Russia's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine increases the urgency to build a more resilient, sustainable and robust economic base in the EU and complete the single market in key industrial and strategic sectors; underlines, in this context, the importance of diversification of supplies and preventing over-dependency in areas such as energy, raw materials and critical products as this may lead to vulnerabilities and reduce the EU's ability to act; stresses the need for a coordinated European approach in the areas of energy production and transport infrastructure (TEN-T) while improving resource efficiency and promoting the circular economy, in order to strengthen the industrial strategy;
6. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt a holistic approach when it creates incentives to support strategic industrial sectors and their supply chains, such as food, pharmaceuticals and others, which are facing a sharp increase in the costs of energy, transport and raw materials on account of the war in Ukraine; calls on the Commission, in particular, to implement a strategy on critical raw materials and resources needed for the key enabling technologies, digitalisation and the green transition; furthermore, supports targeted relief measures for vulnerable customers and companies in the industrial context, in particular vulnerable SMEs and micro-enterprises, to alleviate the worst economic and social impacts of high-energy prices;

### ***Enhancing open strategic autonomy***

7. Reiterates the need to enhance European open strategic autonomy by addressing disruptions and vulnerabilities of supply chains and ensuring their resilience and by investing in skills, professional qualifications, cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, the data economy and key technologies such as artificial intelligence, 5G and 6G, microprocessors and semiconductors, batteries, 3D production, high-performance computing and quantum technologies; highlights the urgency of scaling up innovative breakthrough industrial technologies across the Union, in particular for critical energy-intensive industries, also with a view to closing carbon loops across the value chains of energy intensive-industries by reusing and recycling resources; notes the need to make full use of artificial intelligence in a responsible way; underlines that rural, remote and outermost areas must also benefit from these investments;
8. Emphasises the importance of improving the availability of data, while respecting data protection rules, and advocates a single market for data to support the EU's industrial development, to foster innovation and to strengthen the digital single market as a whole; asks the Commission to accelerate progress on all data-related initiatives, improving data sharing and exchange, supporting the development of common European data spaces and fostering the creation of shared European infrastructure; believes that the EU should cooperate effectively with international partners to achieve compatible digital standards;

### ***Green and digital transition***

9. Recalls that in order to achieve open strategic autonomy, the green and digital transitions must be accelerated across the EU; underlines the massive investment gap in the technology industries enabling the digital and green transformation of our society

and reiterates the need to strengthen investments in digital and green technologies; calls on the Commission, as well as the Member States, to fully support such a horizontal approach, in order to ensure that Europe remains a global leader in crucial enabling technologies;

10. Recalls that the Green Deal can only be achieved with an increase in the production and use of renewable energy while at the same time recognising the importance of energy efficiency measures, which will lead to reductions in primary energy consumption, and of ensuring sufficient access to affordable, secure and diversified clean energy in order to further the green transition of European industry and its global competitiveness; additionally, welcomes the launch of the New European Bauhaus Initiative in the context of the industrial strategy in order to promote and develop sustainability, in particular when it comes to the architectural, construction and housing sectors, while also focusing on sustainable city planning and development and ensuring the inclusion of all European citizens;
11. Underlines that the industrial strategy should address the key obstacles to a faster development of renewables and increase sustainable consumption, inter alia by finding ways to better connect SMEs and energy producers in the system; underlines that reliable and verifiable environmental information, as well as information on the durability and reparability of products, is key to transforming consumption patterns in a sustainable direction;

### ***Strengthening the internal market***

12. Calls for a relaunch of the single market strategy in order to further unlock the potential of the single market by de-fragmenting regulatory approaches, adopting proportionate legislation, modernising public administrations and easing bureaucratic burdens for business, overcoming existing barriers to investment in order to reduce regulatory compliance costs, stimulating competition, favouring market-led innovation and promoting the EU as a world leader in consumer protection; stresses that the EU's industrial competitiveness relies on a fully functioning and resilient single market that delivers benefits for all Member States and their citizens, in particular by focusing on consumer rights, as well as the needs of businesses, including SMEs, micro-enterprises and start-ups;
13. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to enhance cooperation among themselves and with economic operators and to use new technologies for removing unjustified regulatory and non-regulatory barriers and administrative burdens in the single market, including in services; stresses the economic benefits of completing the single market, noting in particular estimates made by the Commission that further improvements in the single market for industrial products could generate between EUR 183 billion and EUR 269 billion a year, while profits from further integration of services markets could reach EUR 297 billion a year, which alone would increase the economic benefits from 8-9 % to around 12 % of additional GDP<sup>1</sup>;
14. Calls on the Commission to come forward with an ambitious Single Market Emergency

---

<sup>1</sup> Commission communication of 2 March 2022 entitled 'Towards a green, digital and resilient economy: our European Growth Model' (COM(2022)0083).

Instrument that strengthens resilience and ensures a well-functioning single market in times of crisis while also developing strong crisis preparedness measures without undermining efforts to eliminate unjustified barriers in the single market; furthermore asks the Commission to improve the effectiveness of existing governance tools;

15. Recalls that in addition to vertical ecosystems, there is a need to have horizontal approaches, such as on enabling technologies, and that the digital ecosystem must be integrated with all other industrial ecosystems horizontally; recalls that the tourism ecosystem was hit hardest during the pandemic, and several other ecosystems also face a slow recovery, such as the textile industry and the cultural and creative industry, meanwhile the digital ecosystem increased its turnover during the crisis; stresses the importance of the Industrial Forum established by the industrial strategy and notes that among of the five task forces that were created, one is directly relevant for the single market and analyses the horizontal aspects of the single market and the removal of unjustified barriers, and another one has a specific focus on advanced manufacturing as a horizontal enabler for a wide range of ecosystems;
- 16 Underlines the need to include in the industrial strategy the gaming industry as one of the industries with the highest development potential, recalling that most game producers and developers are not European actors; calls for clear pathways at the European level to enable the industry to accelerate and become a leader in the sector;

### ***Promoting standardisation***

17. Acknowledges the European standardisation strategy and underlines that harmonised standards along with innovation can increase economic, societal and environmental welfare, including the health and safety of consumers and workers; considers that well-performing standards are therefore essential for a well-functioning single market, the safety of products, global competitiveness and the green and digital transitions and the protection of consumers; underlines the importance of transparency and inclusiveness and of avoiding excessive bureaucracy in standardisation; considers that the standardisation strategy should aim to help improve material reuse and recycling and foster secondary resource uptake;
18. Stresses that it is crucial that the standardisation strategy continues to attract the best experts and encourages a more coordinated approach in terms of international standard-setting, and that strategic objectives are discussed and agreed with the active participation of all relevant stakeholders involved;
19. Calls for ambitious proposals from the Commission concerning the upcoming customs reform, including on the Union Customs Code; underlines the importance of ensuring that custom controls throughout the EU follow the same standards; calls for a reform which ensures open, fair and sustainable trade and protects consumers against dangerous and non-compliant products; calls on the Commission to take into account for its reform the Report by the Wise Persons Group on the Reform of the EU Customs Union<sup>2</sup>;

---

<sup>2</sup> 'Putting more Union in the European Customs - Ten proposals to make the EU Customs Union fit for a Geopolitical Europe. Report by the Wise Persons Group on the Reform of the EU Customs Union', Brussels,

### ***Public procurement and the competitiveness of SMEs***

20. Underlines the need to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs, micro-enterprises and industry by addressing supply risks, dependencies, disruptions and vulnerabilities, especially in the green and digital economies; stresses that an effective, open, fair and cooperative public procurement framework alongside public investment can play an important role in supporting jobs, sustainable growth, competitiveness, innovative investments and fostering sustainable consumption and the uptake of sustainable products; calls on the Commission and the Member States to continue working on the proper implementation of EU public procurement legislation which reflects economic, social and environmental considerations, in order to create a well-functioning and harmonised single market; recalls the importance of the Commission's guidance on green public procurement, which will help the EU's efforts in becoming a resource-efficient economy and will help stimulate demand for more sustainable goods and services while also fostering eco-innovation;
21. Recalls the importance of the guidelines developed by the Commission that give practical indications about how Member States should include performance goals and quality criteria, such as the Most Economic Advantageous Tender (MEAT), in the contracts awarded through public procurement and how to better involve a plurality of manufacturers, including SMEs and micro-enterprises; calls on the Commission and the Member States to consider closely the position of SMEs when it comes to participation in public procurement; underlines the importance of SMEs for competitiveness and innovation in the internal market while recognising their position as producers and also as providers of industrial services to other manufacturers; calls on the Commission to support SMEs, micro-enterprises and start-ups in improving access to finance while helping to decrease buyouts and takeovers of European companies, where such buyouts or takeovers threaten European innovation, and to provide clear guidance on how to comply with EU sectoral rules, where relevant;
22. Recalls the importance of effective and sustainable public procurement practices, especially in the context of the health ecosystem; urges the Commission to support Member States in the development of targeted rules, regarding the joint procurement of essential goods such as medicines, aiming to ensure long-term sustainability, security of supply, fair competition and investment in manufacturing capabilities;
23. Recalls the importance of competition rules adapted to new dynamics of the EU market and to a changing global context to guarantee effective and fair competition in the single market and to enhance consumer choice;

### ***Research, innovation and breakthrough technologies***

24. Recalls the commitments to increase R&D investments to 3 % of GDP and to strengthen the European Research Area to develop a single market for research and innovation; welcomes the establishment of industrial alliances in different sectors and underlines that such alliances along with public-private partnerships are important to develop breakthrough technologies; stresses that increased investment in R&D is an absolute necessity if the EU is to remain competitive; underlines that R&D investment

---

March 2022.

should focus on all industrial sectors, and not only the manufacturing sector, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to facilitate greater participation of SMEs and micro-enterprises in the R&D market; calls on the Commission to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, consistency and synergy in all initiatives, funding and regulatory instruments supporting industry, SMEs and micro-enterprises, particularly when it comes to the green and digital transitions; calls on the Commission to develop a European Innovation Area that aims to turn scientific results into commercial products, supporting start-ups and SMEs and retaining businesses within the Union's single market;

25. Highlights the need to implement the initiatives aimed at reinforcing the European Research Area, the European Education Area and the European Innovation Ecosystems, aiming at building a strong European internal market for research and innovation;
26. Calls on the Commission to establish clear, effective, simple and comprehensive guidelines regarding the existing instruments that should address the policy priorities in several industrial sectors, notably the Important Projects of Common European Interest, the various alliances (industrial data, space launchers, zero emissions aviation, batteries, and others), the European Digital Infrastructure Consortia, and others; stresses the importance of ensuring the right synergies between the different instruments, programmes and funds, from the Recovery and Resilience Facility to the structural funds, and underlines the need to better integrate them with the joint undertakings and other initiatives derived from Horizon Europe, such as the European Institute of Technology and Innovation and the European Innovation Council;

### ***Boosting skills***

27. Calls on the Commission to develop concrete measures to support Member States in addressing the skills mismatch in certain sectors while also promoting decent working conditions; calls for re-balancing within the single market the drain of talent, technological experts and know-how and for improving funding for research, innovation and technological development; furthermore, stresses the need for Member States to take decisive action through their national frameworks to properly implement the Pact for Skills and other EU initiatives aimed at creating reskilling and upskilling opportunities for the workforce; recalls the importance of strengthening education and training, in particular to develop the skills needed to support the green and digital transitions of the single market;
28. Highlights the need for a permanent dialogue among relevant authorities and economic operators to ensure that the workforce is better prepared for the new industrial needs; recalls that the green and digital transitions of the industrial sectors require the mutual recognition of the professional qualifications of highly skilled and skilled professionals;
29. Highlights that the problem of the lack of women employed in the industrial sector contributes to the gender pay and pension gap; calls for action to be taken in the context of the industrial strategy to address the gender gap in European industries and the lack of opportunities for women, particularly in STEM fields; furthermore recalls that the digitalisation of traditional industries could lead to job creation in new industries, but could also disrupt current jobs and could lead to precarious working conditions in



certain cases; recalls that these challenges require action and appropriate financial investment in the context of the industrial strategy.

## INFORMATION ON ADOPTION IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	16.6.2022
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 36 -: 0 0: 6
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Alessandra Basso, Brando Benifei, Adam Bielan, Andrea Caroppo, Anna Cavazzini, Dita Charanzová, Deirdre Clune, Alexandra Geese, Sandro Gozi, Maria Grapini, Krzysztof Hetman, Virginie Joron, Eugen Jurzyca, Arba Kokalari, Marcel Kolaja, Andrey Kovatchev, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, Adriana Maldonado López, Beata Mazurek, Leszek Miller, René Repasi, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Tomislav Sokol, Ivan Štefanec, Róza Thun und Hohenstein, Kim Van Sparrentak, Marion Walsmann
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Marco Campomenosi, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Geoffroy Didier, Malte Gallée, Karen Melchior, Tsvetelina Penkova, Antonio Maria Rinaldi, Marc Tarabella, Kosma Złotowski
<b>Substitutes under Rule 209(7) present for the final vote</b>	Nicola Beer, Rosanna Conte, Vlad Gheorghe, Ondřej Kovařík

## FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

36	+
ECR	Adam Bielan, Beata Mazurek, Kosma Złotowski
PPE	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Andrea Caroppo, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Deirdre Clune, Geoffroy Didier, Krzysztof Hetman, Arba Kokalari, Andrey Kovatchev, Andreas Schwab, Tomislav Sokol, Ivan Štefanec, Marion Walsmann
RENEW	Nicola Beer, Dita Charanzová, Vlad Gheorghe, Sandro Gozi, Ondřej Kovařík, Karen Melchior, Róza Thun und Hohenstein
S&D	Brando Benifei, Maria Grapini, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, Adriana Maldonado López, Leszek Miller, Tsvetelina Penkova, René Repasi, Christel Schaldemose, Marc Tarabella
VERTS/ALE	Anna Cavazzini, Malte Gallée, Alexandra Geese, Marcel Kolaja, Kim Van Sparrentak

0	-

6	0
ECR	Eugen Jurzyca
ID	Alessandra Basso, Marco Campomenosi, Rosanna Conte, Virginie Joron, Antonio Maria Rinaldi

**Key to symbols:**

+ : in favour

- : against

0 : abstention