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**NOTE**

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| From:    | Presidency  |
| To:      | Delegations   |
| Subject: | Draft Council conclusions on "A future EU Industrial Policy Strategy" |

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Delegations will find attached a Presidency proposal for draft Council conclusions on "A future EU Industrial Policy Strategy" with a view to the discussion by the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) at its meeting on 17 September 2018.

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**DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON  
"A FUTURE EU INDUSTRIAL POLICY STRATEGY"**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the Council Conclusions of May 2017<sup>1</sup>, November 2017<sup>2</sup> and March 2018<sup>3</sup> as well as the European Council conclusions of March 2018<sup>4</sup> which all stressed the need for a comprehensive and long-term EU industrial policy strategy,

1. ACKNOWLEDGES the major role of industry and related services as a key driver for green growth, employment and innovation in the single market; REITERATES the Council's call for a comprehensive and future-oriented industrial policy strategy for the EU, which shall take into account the sustainable development goals and be implemented and synchronized with safe and sustainable energy and environment (including climate change) policies by the beginning of the next EU institutional cycle, building on the Commission's communication from 2017 on "Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry - A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy"<sup>5</sup> as an important first step;
2. STRESSES the need to build upon the EU's strengths and assets and focus on policy measures that need attention in the long-term as outlined in the Presidency report on "The future of the European industry: State of play and perspectives"<sup>6</sup>, thereby taking full advantage of current and future developments; POINTS TO the crucial role of the next multiannual financial framework in supporting the ongoing industrial transformation by increasing investments in future-oriented, innovative growth-areas as well as research programmes and instruments to strengthen the European industrial base;

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 9760/17.

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 15223/17.

<sup>3</sup> Doc. 7037/18.

<sup>4</sup> Doc. EUCO 1/18, paragraph 1.

<sup>5</sup> Doc. 12202/17 + ADD 1.

<sup>6</sup> Doc. 14365/17.

3. EMPHASISES the vital role of coordinated policy actions at EU, national and regional level for the competitiveness of the EU's industrial base, its enterprises of all sizes and its value-chains; therefore, REITERATES the importance of mainstreaming industrial policy across all EU strategic initiatives and consistently applying the principle of smart regulation, to create a favourable environment and to reduce cumulative regulatory costs in order to stimulate investments and innovation; STRESSES in this respect the high priority of an integrated approach to competitiveness between the different Council formations in order to address industrial policy on an equal footing with other policy areas;
4. STRESSES the Council's call to continue the work on a mechanism to monitor the implementation of industrial policy as well as the trends in competitiveness of the EU industry, including a set of appropriate indicators based on the input from the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth<sup>7</sup>, focussing on a comparison at a global level as well as medium to long-term strategic objectives and targets with a focus on 2030 and beyond;
5. UNDERLINES in this respect the need for a clear and transparent governance structure to design, implement and enforce industrial policy, building upon existing fora, based on an informed dialogue between the industry, institutions at EU level, national, regional and local authorities as well as the civil society; EMPHASISES the strategic role of the Competitiveness Council in providing political guidance and momentum towards industrial competitiveness.

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<sup>7</sup> Doc. 11244/18.