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From:	Commission
To:	Council
Subject:	European Battery Alliance - building a strong strategic battery value chain in Europe <i>- Information from the Commission</i>

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission to the Council with a view to the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 26 September 2019.

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**Information from the Commission****A.O.B.: European Battery Alliance – building a strong strategic battery value chain in Europe**

In October 2017, European Commission Vice-President Šefčovič launched the European Battery Alliance, with Member States and industry, to support the development of a competitive, sustainable and innovative battery value chain in the EU. Batteries are a key enabling technology to achieve the Energy Union objectives for zero and low emission mobility and energy storage. The demand for batteries is expected to increase dramatically with the rapid rise in hybrid and electric vehicle production leading to a battery market estimated to be worth, at least, €250 billion per year in Europe alone from 2025 onwards.

The Commission wants to ensure that European industry can take the lead and capture a great part of the European and global market. A key objective of the European Battery Alliance is therefore to address head-on the current lack of capability in the EU to mass manufacture battery cells, which is essential if Europe is to remain a global centre of automotive innovation and manufacturing.

An important initial output was the Commission's Strategic Action Plan for Batteries of 2018 (COM(2018) 293) setting out a range of policy, legal and finance measures to support the entire value chain. These include measures to support access to raw materials, investment in R&D, encouraging the development of battery-related projects and support for second use and recycling of batteries. The Commission has taken stock of its implementation in the Report (COM (2019) 176) adopted by the Commission in April this year.

As a result of the Alliance, significant cross-border manufacturing projects have been announced – and are benefitting from a joined-up approach between several Member States (through Important Projects of Common European Interest), their regions (with a smart specialisation partnership to link up regional ecosystems), the European Investment Bank and the European Commission. An investment platform is also being set up to leverage private investment in these - and other - projects.

The Commission's approach to supporting the battery value chain has shed light on the challenges posed by a future-proof industrial policy for Europe. It has notably shown the tangible benefits of aligning EU, national and regional instruments around flagship projects, in order to boost the EU's industrial leadership and safeguard our strategic autonomy.

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