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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB for the meeting of the Competitiveness Council of 24 September 2026: Towards a European Action Plan for the Household Appliances Sector - <i>Information from France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Spain</i>

Request by the French, German, Italian, Polish, Slovak and Spanish delegations for an AoB agenda item for the COMPET Council on the 24th of September 2026

Towards a European Action Plan for the Household Appliances Sector

The European household appliances sector represents a cornerstone of the EU's industrial base, contributing approximately **€79 billion to European GDP**, employing **1 million people** directly and indirectly, and comprising over **3,200 companies and 130 production plants** across the European Economic Area. Beyond its direct economic footprint, the sector anchors a wide industrial value chain — spanning steel, plastics, electronics, logistics, repair and recycling — and acts as a key enabler of **energy efficiency, electrification, circularity and demand-side decarbonisation** in European households.

Despite its strategic importance, the sector is under mounting pressure. Soaring energy costs, rising input prices and unfair competition from third-country producers have triggered a wave of plant closures across Member States, with severe consequences for employment and industrial capacity. The share of household appliances originating from Asia has grown from **15.3% in 2014 to 28.2% in 2024**, while European production has contracted from **81.3% to 71.4%** over the same period.

Against this backdrop and building on the principles underpinning recent European industrial initiatives, **the signatories** urge the Commission to **recognize the sector of household appliances as a strategic industrial ecosystem** contributing to Europe's competitiveness, economic resilience, electrification and the green transition and to draw up a **dedicated European Plan for the Household Appliances Sector**, aimed at fostering an environment conducive to investment, production and innovation within the EU.

Such a plan should combine **short- and medium-term competitiveness measures**, ensuring a well-functioning Single Market, including strengthening market surveillance and enforcement and reducing unnecessary administrative burdens for manufacturers, optimal use of European financial resources, improving product origin transparency, leveraging circular economy policies and boost European recycling industry, making good-performance products more affordable and developing new business models. **Additional measures to accelerate the green transition** should include regularly reviewing the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) for further criteria-based downstream extension.

These targeted measures should be complemented by **broader horizontal initiatives valid for all industrial sectors to reduce industrial energy costs and protect the EU manufacturing base against unfair trade practices.**

An urgent action is needed at European, national and regional level to preserve and strengthen one of Europe's remaining strategic manufacturing ecosystems and to support investments in future production capacity. The signatories invite the Commission and Member States to take note of the information on the way forward towards a dedicated European Action Plan for the Household Appliances Sector at the forthcoming COMPET Council.