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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
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Subject:	<i>Preparation of the Competitiveness Council on 29 November 2018</i> Conclusions on "A future EU Industrial Policy Strategy" <i>- Adoption</i>

1. On 13 September 2017, the Commission submitted a communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank on "Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry: A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy"¹, accompanied by a list of next steps on key actions for a smart, innovative and sustainable industry².
2. The Council, in its conclusions of 30 November 2017³, called on the Commission to further develop a comprehensive EU industrial strategy with a focus on 2030 and beyond, including medium to long-term strategic objectives and indicators for industry and to be accompanied by an action plan with concrete measures.

¹ Doc. 12202/17.

² Doc. 12202/17 ADD 1.

³ Doc. 15223/17.

Moreover, in its conclusions of 12 March 2018⁴, the Council further specified its expectations regarding a comprehensive EU industrial strategy with the aim of providing guidance to the Commission for the preparation of new political initiatives.

3. In order to reiterate the Council's call for a comprehensive and long-term industrial policy strategy for the EU, and to reaffirm the Council's commitment to mainstreaming industrial competitiveness across all EU policy areas, the Presidency prepared draft Council conclusions on "A future EU Industrial Policy Strategy" focussing in particular on a monitoring framework with targets and indicators and on governance aspects of the industrial policy strategy.
4. The Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Industry) discussed the draft Council conclusions at meetings on 17 September, 22 October and 31 October 2018. A broad consensus on the text in the Annex was reached.

Changes compared to document 13465/18 are indicated in **bold underlined** for additions and in ~~striketrough~~ for deletions.

5. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to confirm the broad consensus reached at Working Party level on the text set out in the Annex and submit the draft conclusions for adoption by the Council (Competitiveness) at its session on 29 November 2018.

⁴ Doc. 7037/18.

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

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

RECALLING the Council Conclusions of May 2017⁵, November 2017⁶ and March 2018⁷ as well as the European Council conclusions of March 2018⁸ 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 growth, employment and innovation in the single market; REITERATES the Council's call for a comprehensive and long-term industrial policy strategy for the EU, including an action plan, **as part of the Commission's annual and multiannual priorities**, to be in place at the latest by the beginning of the next EU institutional cycle, by building on the Commission's communication from 2017 on "Investing in a smart, innovative and sustainable Industry - A renewed EU Industrial Policy Strategy"⁹ as an important first step; EMPHASISES that industrial policy shall ~~be~~ **focus on strengthening the competitiveness of EU industry** in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the UNFCCC¹⁰ Paris Agreement and ~~be~~ synchronized with energy and environment (including climate change) policies ~~through~~, **making best use of the opportunities resulting from** the transition towards innovative, safe and sustainable technologies, low-carbon and circular economy; ~~strengthening the competitiveness of EU industry;~~

⁵ Doc. 9760/17.

⁶ Doc. 15223/17.

⁷ Doc. 7037/18.

⁸ Doc. EUCO 1/18, paragraph 1.

⁹ Doc. 12202/17 + ADD 1.

¹⁰ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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"¹¹, thereby taking full advantage of current and future developments; without prejudice to the negotiations on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), POINTS TO the important role of the next MFF in supporting the ongoing industrial transformation by investing in future-oriented, innovative growth-areas as well as research, innovation, skills and digital capacity development programmes and instruments in both central and shared management to strengthen the European industrial base as well as its competitiveness; STRESSES the need for developing effective synergies between and within EU, national and regional programmes, enabling an integrated and multi-level approach to industrial policy;
3. EMPHASISES the vital role of coordinated policy actions at EU, national and regional level for the competitiveness of the EU's industry, its enterprises of all sizes, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and small mid-caps, and the development of its strategic value-chains; UNDERLINES that Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) are one of the relevant tools for supporting strategic value chains at European level and that their full potential should be developed, by making use of different available financing approaches, in order to facilitate large-scale innovative projects of transnational character;
4. REITERATES the importance of mainstreaming industrial policy across all EU strategic initiatives and consistently applying the ~~principle of~~ better regulation **principles and guidelines**, to create a favourable environment and to reduce unnecessary regulatory burden in order to stimulate investments and innovation (both technological and non-technological); STRESSES in this respect the high priority of a coordinated approach to competitiveness between the different Council formations in order to address industrial policy on an equal footing with other policy areas;

¹¹ Doc. 14365/17.

5. STRESSES the Council's call to continue the work on a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the EU industrial policy strategy as well as the trends in competitiveness of the EU industry; therefore UNDERLINES the ~~need for~~ **importance of making swift use of the** set of appropriate and future-proof indicators based on the input from the High Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth¹², focussing on a comparison of the EU's industrial competitiveness at a global level as well as the definition of medium to long-term strategic objectives and targets to be achieved by 2030 and beyond;
6. UNDERLINES in this respect the need for a high-level, clear, effective and transparent governance structure to design, implement, enforce and monitor industrial policy; EMPHASISES the importance of scrutinizing the existing structure for delivering results and the effective interaction of existing fora, based on an informed dialogue between the industry, innovation actors, institutions at EU level, national, regional and local authorities as well as the civil society;
7. RECALLS the horizontal role given to the Competitiveness Council with respect to enhancing competitiveness and growth, to review on a regular basis both horizontal and sectoral issues and to be effectively consulted on proposals considered likely to have substantial effects on competitiveness, alongside the responsibility of all Council formations to assess the impact of their work field¹³;
8. therefore, REAFFIRMS its commitment to mainstreaming industrial competitiveness across all ~~Council formations~~ **EU policy areas** and STRESSES that the Competitiveness Council should play a key role in the definition and strategic monitoring of the future EU industrial policy strategy, and in providing political guidance and momentum for EU industry and its competitiveness.

¹² Doc. 11244/18.

¹³ Doc. 8410/03.