



Reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability

With the recent crisis leading to the loss of 3.8 million jobs in the industrial sector and to extremely high unemployment rates, the EU needs a comprehensive growth strategy. Members of the Industry Committee approved on Thursday plans to reinvigorate the economy and bring about a renaissance of industry for a sustainable Europe.

"With a great majority the ITRE Committee today voted to accept my report that calls for a "Renaissance of Industry for a Sustainable Europe" or RISE Strategy. The report shows that industrial growth and sustainability are not opposing concepts but are in fact closely tied together", commented rapporteur Reinhard Bütikofer (Greens/EFA, DE).

He added that: "The proposals that are included in the report give the European Union the opportunity to implement an industrial policy that provides a new economic dynamic based on sustainability."

Tackling unemployment

Members of the Industry Committee welcomed the Commission's focus on industrial policy as such a focus is essential for economic development and competitiveness, and for reducing unemployment. Industry creates every fourth job, providing employment for some 34 million people.

MEPs also underlined that industrial policy must address comparative weaknesses in the EU economy be that a lack of research and development (R&D) investment, the development of energy prices, bureaucratic red tape or difficult access to financing. They noted that industry is responsible for 80% of expenditure in the field of R&D and that nearly 75% of European exports consist of industrial goods. They also stressed that each job in industry creates approximately two additional jobs in the supply and service sectors.

Encouraging innovation

An internal market strategy fostering demand-driven innovation also needs to be developed in order to promote the uptake of new technologies thereby helping create new markets, business models and industrial sectors, MEPs added.

They also stressed that workplace innovation, development of competences, creative and autonomous workers and teamwork are important assets in both the social and economic performance of companies.

Ensuring the availability of resources and energy

MEPs highlighted the fact that resources, including raw material, and energy are at the heart of the RISE strategy since they are crucial for international competitiveness. They warned that, without certain key raw materials, no future development will be possible in most strategic industries in Europe. They therefore called on the Commission and the Member States to take active measures to combat excessive costs in both resources and energy.

In the chair: Amalia SARTORI (EPP, IT)

Links:

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/home.html>

Draft report on reindustrialising Europe to promote competitiveness and sustainability

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPART&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE519.768>

Profile of rapporteur Reinhard Bütikofer (Greens/EFA, DE)

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96739/REINHARD_BUTIKOFER_home.html

Procedure file

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2013/2006\(INI\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oel/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2013/2006(INI)&l=en)

Contact:

Eirini NIKOLAIDOU

Press Unit

: indu-press@europarl.europa.eu

: (+32) 2 28 32798 (BXL)

: (+33) 3 881 74651 (STR)

: (+32) 498 98 32 83

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