



Plenary sitting

B9-0108/2023

8.2.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs
(2023/2513(RSP))

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on behalf of the Renew Group

**European Parliament resolution on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs
(2023/2513(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 4(2)(a), 26, 27, 114, 115, 121 and 126 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to its resolution of 25 November 2020 on a new industrial strategy for Europe¹,
- having regard to its resolution of 15 September 2022 on the implementation of the Updated New Industrial Strategy for Europe: aligning spending to policy²,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 27 April 2022 entitled ‘Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU’ (COM(2022)0657),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 24 September 2020 entitled ‘A Capital Markets Union for people and businesses – new action plan’ (COM(2020)0590),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 1 July 2020 entitled ‘European Skills Agenda for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience’ (COM(2020)0274),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 1 February 2023 entitled ‘A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age’ (COM(2023)0062),
- having regard to Decision (EU) 2022/2481 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 establishing the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030³,
- having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 of 10 May 2021 establishing the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, and repealing Decision 2013/743/EU⁴,
- having regard to its resolution of 5 October 2022 on the EU’s response to the increase in energy prices in Europe⁵,
- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the

¹ OJ C 425, 20.10.2021, p. 43.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0329.

³ OJ L 323, 19.12.2022, p. 4.

⁴ OJ L 167I, 12.5.2021, p. 1.

⁵ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0347.

Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union⁶,

- having regard to Regulation (EU) 2022/1031 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 June 2022 on the access of third-country economic operators, goods and services to the Union's public procurement and concession markets and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union economic operators, goods and services to the public procurement and concession markets of third countries⁷,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) 2022/2560 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on foreign subsidies distorting the internal market⁸,
 - having regard to the proposal of 19 September 2022 for a regulation establishing a Single Market emergency instrument and repealing Council Regulation No (EC) 2679/98 (COM(2022)0459),
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, although Europe has what it takes to become the global industrial leader, notably in green and digital technologies, it is faced with higher energy prices and lower levels of investment, leading to a twin risk of internal and external fragmentation;
- B. whereas the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has shown us that peace in Europe cannot be taken for granted; whereas the EU stands unwaveringly at the side of its Ukrainian friends and remains committed to the rebuilding of their homeland; whereas it also needs to protect its freedom and prosperity;
- C. whereas, although the EU can be proud of its single market, it must continue to improve the conditions for companies, big and small, to innovate, to grow and to thrive globally;
- D. whereas carbon-intensive industry, which employs eight million workers in Europe, is facing high energy prices, with gas prices being around six times higher than the average over the previous 10 years, and more than four times higher than in the United States;
- E. whereas skills for a fair twin transition and the upskilling and reskilling of the workforce are needed in the EU to increase its open strategic autonomy and to develop a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy;
- F. whereas across the EU, 40 % of employers report difficulties finding workers with the necessary skills; whereas combating skills mismatches is crucial to addressing significant labour market shortages in the Union;
- G. whereas a Pact for Skills could bring together local businesses, local authorities' employment services, training providers and jobseekers and would address the challenge of the regional dimension of finding workers with the right skills while

⁶ OJ L 79I, 21.3.2019, p. 1.

⁷ OJ L 173, 30.6.2022, p. 1.

⁸ OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, p. 1.

supporting effective cross-border labour markets;

- H. whereas, although the EU is united in addressing all the consequences of the war in Ukraine, it also needs to reduce its critical economic and energy dependence on unreliable third countries more rapidly in strategic areas, as this dependence makes its companies and its economies vulnerable to potential disruptions in global supply chains and unfair trade practices;
- I. whereas the EU must counteract third countries' protectionist measures and continue to promote an open economy based on fair competition within Europe and in its relations with its international partners;
- J. whereas this includes consolidating the EU's partnerships with Latin America, and ratifying its agreements with Chile, New Zealand and Mexico, along with the outstanding bilateral agreement with Mercosur, provided that pre-ratification commitments on climate change, deforestation and other concerns are satisfactory;
- K. whereas it also means monitoring further negotiations and the possible conclusion of the agreement with Australia and pushing for negotiations to begin on a bilateral investment agreement with Taiwan as well as to further advance our partnership of equals with Africa following the European Union – African Union summit of 2022;
- L. whereas EU trade policy should aim to ensure that our free trade agreements come with strong sustainable development chapters, which include sanctions enforceable as a last resort, strong labour standards in line with International Labour Organization conventions, and environmental and climate change commitments;
- M. whereas the development of a competitive and innovative European industry fit for the 21st century will pave the way for a better, more prosperous and more sustainable future for Europeans, which would translate into many more jobs, a faster green transition, enhanced economic, industrial and technological sovereignty, fewer dependencies in strategic sectors and increased geopolitical influence;
- N. whereas in her State of the Union address on 14 September 2022 Commission President von der Leyen announced a new European Sovereignty Fund and called for the urgent revision of the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) framework, putting forward the idea of an SME relief package to support companies suffering under the current conditions as well as to invest in the education of human resources; whereas this package should consider building SMEs' capacity to upskill their workforce;
- 1. Welcomes the Commission communication on a Green Deal Industrial Plan for the net-zero age; asks the Commission and the Council to take into account the following considerations in order ensure that the plan is truly European, protects the single market's integrity and achieves the objective of open strategic autonomy, including the twin transition, in order to ensure that the plan is truly European;;

A predictable and simplified regulatory environment

- 2. Welcomes the fact that the plan contains a temporary crisis and transition framework for energy as well as for companies producing strategic items, such as clean innovative

technologies; considers that it should be as targeted as possible, while ensuring a level playing field in the single market;

3. Considers that this plan should cut red tape and administrative burdens significantly, focus on delivering solutions to European companies, particularly for SMEs and start-ups, boost innovation and promote entrepreneurship;
4. Considers that ‘fast-track permitting’ should be established for projects aiming to use clean and renewable energy sources to reduce energy dependence, and for industrial projects of general European interest, and that the process for important projects of common European interest (IPCEIs) should be streamlined, while ensuring adequate administrative resources are available and the time required for their appraisal is minimised;
5. Underlines that the plan should guarantee EU-wide access to affordable clean energy for European industry and establish new fiscal and financial support for a just and technologically neutral transition by carbon-intensive industries in order to ensure they remain competitive with low-cost competitors outside of the EU and in the context of high energy prices;
6. Considers that the plan should facilitate, boost and attract private finance by completing the capital markets union to allow European SMEs and start-ups to scale up and deepen the single market by fully enforcing existing legislation, removing existing barriers and further harmonising standards in the EU as well as with third countries, including countries of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association;
7. Considers that the plan should create the right conditions to increase Europe’s global share of research and development (R&D) spending and reach its own target of devoting 3 % of gross domestic product to R&D and reinforce the European Innovation Council to enable breakthrough technologies to be developed;

Faster access to sufficient funding

8. Calls on the Commission to ensure that a European sovereignty fund be integrated into the multiannual financial framework and private investments mobilised to strengthen the EU’s open strategic autonomy in a comprehensive way and to increase European investments across the Union in key strategic sectors, such as the production in the EU of critical inputs, technologies and goods;
9. Considers that these investments are key to reducing the EU’s dependencies in strategic sectors, such as defence, health, raw materials, space and the green and digital transitions;
10. Considers that one of the fund’s objectives is also to avoid the fragmentation caused by national schemes and ensure a truly united European response to the current crisis; stresses that uncoordinated State-aid rules across Europe would hamper economic recovery and jeopardise the single market;
11. Stresses that the fund should be the budgetary backbone of efforts to combat these economic disruptions and supply shortages while securing our open strategic autonomy

in the long term;

12. Is determined to ensure Parliament plays an appropriate role in establishing this fund and is fully involved in this decision-making process to preserve the ordinary legislative procedure and Parliament's role as an equal arm of the budgetary authority;
13. Believes the Commission must take into account the potential effect of any reform of State-aid rules on the single market and take into consideration the fact that not all Member States have the same capacity to provide aid to their industries;
14. Insists that the Commission, in parallel with setting up this fund, carry out a sovereignty test to screen European legislation and funds, both existing and upcoming, to demonstrate that they neither harm the EU's capacity to act autonomously, nor create new undesirable dependencies, in particular on non-market economies and unreliable partners;
15. Welcomes the Commission initiative to modernise the Stability and Growth Pact; considers that this modernisation should incentivise structural reforms and national investments with real added value for its open strategic autonomy, in areas including but not limited to infrastructure, resources and technologies;
16. Calls on the Commission and the Council to reinforce the European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) to support short-time work schemes, workers' income and workers that would be temporarily laid off because of the increase in energy prices;

Skills

17. Emphasises the need for the plan to contribute to reaching the objectives and targets set out in the Digital Decade policy programme for 2030, including by facilitating access to employment for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and people with lower skill levels;
18. Underlines that the plan should contribute to delivering a highly skilled workforce for European industry and to strengthening the relevance of skills; considers that it should do so by developing local strategies and local pacts for skills while supporting the development of one-stop shops and local hubs for skills development as well as by closely cooperating with social partners, public and private employment services, local authorities' employment services, companies, education and training providers and developing joined-up approaches with all branches of government;
19. Considers that the plan should harness talent within the EU and enhance cross-border labour mobility as well as attract skilled labour from non-EU countries via the European Talent Pool;
20. Underlines the need for the plan to invest in quality training in education by targeting specific curricula in universities and vocational training centres, attracting young people to those curricula, strengthening the spread of knowledge and know-how through exchanges of teachers, researchers and students to allow people to study and do research where the curricula are best suited;

Open trade for resilient supply chains

21. Welcomes existing reforms made during this mandate to ensure fair competition in the single market, notably in the case of public procurement and foreign subsidies;
22. Calls on the Commission to make full use of these instruments, and, in addition to these reforms, to be more ambitious and propose a new generation of partnerships in the world act, which would make full use of the EU's economic and political leverage with its current trading partners to ensure the Union gets the most for its industry exports and imports, while promoting its values and standards, not least human rights and the European Green Deal;
23. Recalls that one in five jobs in the Union depends on exports; calls on the Commission, the European External Action Service and the Member States to promote new economic partnerships with democratic countries, so the Union can face climate change and the consequences of the Russian aggression together;
24. Underlines the need for the Commission to ensure the diversification of supply chains to Europe, particularly with regard to critical technologies and raw materials, based on a detailed assessment of current dependencies and alternative sources;
25. Calls on the Commission to use all Europe's trade policy instruments to promote its prosperity by seeking and creating new trade partnerships and to safeguard the single market from distortions from third countries;
26. Calls on the Commission to have recourse to the dispute settlement mechanisms available at World Trade Organization level whenever necessary to promote rules-based trade; at the same time, underlines that vigorous and strong trade ties with our international partners are essential to achieving and maintaining economic growth and prosperity in Europe and the competitiveness of European businesses;
27. Calls on the Commission to adopt a plan to increase Europe's attractiveness for business projects, which should include less administrative burden for EU businesses, along the lines of the 'one-in-two-out' principle;
28. Calls on the Commission and the EU Member States to ensure the screening of the most sensitive foreign investments, calls on the Commission to come up with proposals to further improve the effectiveness of the foreign direct investment screening regulation in the upcoming review;

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29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and candidate countries, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Court of Auditors, the Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, for distribution to subnational parliaments and councils, the Council of Europe and the United Nations.

