Question for oral answer O-000047/2017 to the Commission
Rule 128
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Subject: Building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe

At the beginning of its present mandate, the Commission underlined the need to maintain and reinforce a strong and high-performing industrial base for the EU internal market and to bring the share of industry in the EU’s GDP – currently 16 % – back to 20 % by 2020. On this basis, the Commission has committed to addressing the concerns of industry and to systematically mainstreaming industrial competitiveness across all its major policy initiatives. The need for a clear EU strategy supporting the modernisation and transformation of industry has therefore been highlighted at different policy and institutional levels.

In view of the above:

1. Could the Commission outline what concrete results have been achieved by mainstreaming industrial competitiveness into EU policy?

2. In the light of the declining role of industry in the overall economy on the one hand and the critical challenges with which Europe is confronted on the other, how will the Commission react? What action will it take to face up to the factors impacting the global competitiveness of European industry?

3. How will the Commission respond to calls to provide an assessment of the impact of mainstreaming industrial policy into the EU strategic initiatives and to submit a holistic EU industrial policy strategy together with a corresponding action plan? Will it include an initiative in its 2018 work programme?

4. In the field of industrial policy, what further changes could be made to EU institutional governance in order to ensure a much more coordinated strategic approach and an effective implementation of competitiveness mainstreaming across all policy areas?

5. The target to have industry accounting for 20 % of EU GDP by 2020 will clearly be very challenging, given the long-term economic trends. Therefore, in order for it to lead industrial policy in the next decade, will the Commission consider adapting this target and complementing it with the 2030 climate and energy targets?

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