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PRESS RELEASE

CECIMO becomes member of the new High Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies (KETs)

Brussels, 27 February 2013 - A new High Level Group (HLG) on KETs was launched today to assist the European Commission in the implementation of the European strategy to boost the industrial production of KETs-based products in Europe. The Group was inaugurated by European Commission Vice-Presidents Antonio Tajani and Neelie Kroes, alongside with Commissioners Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and Johannes Hahn, reflecting the cross cutting influences on KETs of industrial policy, the digital agenda, research, innovation and science, and regional policy. CECIMO was invited by the Commission to become a member of the group as representative of the advanced manufacturing technologies sector. **Mr Javier Eguren**, former CECIMO President, is appointed as member of the HLG and he will be assisted in this work by Mr. **Filip Geerts**, CECIMO Director General in his capacity as Sherpa.

The High Level Group will advise the Commission on the implementation of the strategy to boost the development of KETs and the industrial production of KETs based products in Europe. KETs cover nanotechnology, micro-/nanoelectronics, industrial biotechnology, advanced materials, photonics and advanced manufacturing systems, and they play an essential role in enhancing competitiveness of a wide range of sectors including, among others, automotive, aerospace, energy and health in Europe. A first HLG on KETs, in which CECIMO played an active role, had a mandate of one year and delivered in June 2011 a report setting out a shared long-term strategy for the deployment of KETs in Europe. The report constitutes the basis of the European Commission's strategy on KETs, adopted in June 2012. The **major objective** of this strategy is to reverse the declining position of Europe in industrial production in the world by tapping into the potential of key enabling technologies to boost productivity, innovation and, thus, competitiveness of the European manufacturing base.

The scope of issues to be discussed by the High Level Group is broad and covers research and innovation, financing, trade and competition, skill and regional policies. Many measures have already been put in place by the Commission to implement the KETs strategy. On the occasion of the inauguration, a Memorandum of understanding was signed between the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) that will pave the way for improved access to finance for investments in key enabling technologies. **European Commission Vice-President Antonio Tajani**, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry, underlined that the agreement signed with the EIB was a strong signal to Europe. Key Enabling Technologies are a priority investment area in Europe.

Filip Geerts, CECIMO Director General comments: *"The Key Enabling Technologies initiative is a complementary action to the EU Flagship initiative on industrial policy. It aims to develop the right framework conditions in Europe to enable the manufacturing industry to build its competitiveness on the cutting-edge technologies which will shape the future production processes and products."* Highlighting that the European Commission identified KETs and KETs-based industrial production as a major contributor to creating sustainable growth and high-value jobs, and to tackling societal challenges, he stated: *"To be able to produce the products of the future you first need to produce the means to manufacture them. Europe will be a game-changer in world manufacturing as long as it maintains its*



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leading position in production technologies.” He affirmed that CECIMO, as representative of the European machine tool industry, is committed to help achieve this goal and will assume an active role in the High Level Group.

About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries. We bring together 15 national Associations of Machine Tool Builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe*, over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers more than 97% of total Machine Tool production in Europe and about one third worldwide. It accounts for almost 150,000 employees and a turnover of nearly €21 Billion in 2011. More than three quarters of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas half of it is exported outside Europe*. For more information visit www.cecimo.eu

*Europe = EU + EFTA + Turkey

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