

CECIMO, representing the machine tool industry and related Manufacturing Technologies, welcomes the new EU Industrial strategy and recognises that the European industry has a pivotal role to play leading the EU through the green and digital transformation. CECIMO believes that the future industrial strategy should aim to deliver the following objectives:

Safeguard EU's technological sovereignty

The EU industrial strategy should safeguard the EU's technological sovereignty in disruptive technologies such as additive manufacturing, artificial intelligence, robotics, blockchain, industrial platforms and 5G. Therefore, **policies and financial instruments** should support research, innovation and deployment in the above-mentioned technological areas to ensure that the EU is not lagging in the technological race.

Upskilling and reskilling EU workforce

Upskilling and reskilling are key to competitiveness in disruptive times and are needed to keep up with technological change. AI and data analytics will change jobs and businesses, and we want to make sure current and future workers will be able to take advantage of these opportunities. Therefore, upskilling and reskilling should be an inherent part of the EU industrial strategy and the European Commission should seek the maximum impact of the EU Funds for **skills development** in new digital technologies. Digital skills are essential for machine tool companies and their slow implementation is limiting investments in advanced technologies hindering their growth and development.

Maintain a global level playing field

Europe produces high added value products and it is the role of the European Commission to protect the European industry from **unfair trade practices**. For instance, reinforced custom rules would ensure that imported goods from third countries meet the same requirements as the ones produced in EU. Furthermore, the EU should make the most out of its **trade defense instruments**. We strongly believe that the **"New Chief Trade enforcement officer"** has to involve industry associations to ensure to oversee properly the compliance and enforcement of the EU trade agreements. Finally, we have been calling for a reform of the WTO trade protection mechanisms and rules which would upgrade and update the WTO system and we very much hope that the new European Commission will bring it to completion.

Reinforce the EU internal market

This much-awaited strategy lacks some concrete measures especially concerning how to strengthen the competitiveness of the European Single Market. However, the European Commission should reinforce the European Single Market and ensure more certainty for industry. Effective **market surveillance** is essential to create a level playing field, which encourages competition and a smoother functioning of the market. The EU should continue to be a **global standard setter** leveraging the size of the internal market to enhance the competitiveness and the growth of businesses. We strongly believe that the industry should be included in all discussions regarding the standardization system.

Build strong industrial ecosystems

CECIMO has been involved in the discussion of the strategic value chains and the **Strategic Forum for Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI)**. With the inclusion of the strategic value chains in the EU industrial strategy “as industrial ecosystems”, Europe has the potential to be the industrial front-runner in the development of key technologies such as additive manufacturing. **Additive manufacturing is an example of a strong business case**; not only does it bring a more circular approach to manufacturing but opportunities for localization of strategic industries in Europe, reducing production and transportation costs. The development of such industrial ecosystems should be further incentivized by allowing massive investments in innovative areas and the exemption to EU state aid rules when necessary.

Ensure a governance structure

We hope that the Industrial Strategy will translate into a real governance structure with an inclusive and open Industrial Forum, and the continuous monitoring of the EU industrial strategy implementation could help into this direction. **CECIMO welcomes the initiative of the European Commission and looks forward to working on advanced manufacturing in the framework of the Industrial Forum.**

About CECIMO

CECIMO is the European Association of the Machine Tool Industries and related Manufacturing Technologies. We bring together 15 national associations of machine tool builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe (EU + EFTA + Turkey), over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 98% of the total machine tool production in Europe and about 35% worldwide. It accounts for more than 150,000 employees and a turnover of around 27 billion euros in 2019. More than three quarters of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas half of it is exported outside Europe. **Transparency Register of the European Commission and European Parliament: 79464041975-17**

Contact

Filip Geerts, Director General
filip.geerts@cecimo.eu
Vincenzo Belletti, Innovation Policy Manager
vincenzo.belletti@cecimo.eu
Damir Glas, Advocacy & Public Relations Manager
damir.glas@cecimo.eu