



cecimo

European Association of the Machine Tool Industries
and related Manufacturing Technologies

CECIMO'S REACTION TO THE UPDATED EU INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery

CECIMO welcomes the updated EU Industrial strategy that recognises the vital role of the European industry in leading the green and digital transitions, while ensuring the competitiveness of our industries in the context of the recovery from the Coronavirus crisis.

On several occasions, CECIMO underlined that collaboration, partnerships, ecosystems and common standards are fundamental factors for fostering industry recovery and mastering the twin transitions. CECIMO, therefore, believes that the industrial strategy is going in the right direction, representing an important step for a more ambitious European industrial policy.

The recovery of the machinery sector is key to improve the European economy's technological capabilities and support its growth.

The current crisis has proven the importance of a well-functioning Single Market. CECIMO strongly supports the Commission's instruments for strengthening the Single Market aiming to ensure the normal functioning of the Single Market in all circumstances and without any barriers. The crisis has also highlighted that effective market surveillance is essential to create a level playing field, which encourages competition and positive market growth.

A harmonised standardisation system is of paramount importance to address the challenges in the digital market. European industry needs standards that would enable interoperability and trust in the market. Hence, the EU must contribute to innovation-friendly legislation and we strongly believe that the industry representatives should be included in all discussions regarding the standardisation system. This also highlights the importance of fast-tracking the development of standards and certification procedures to enable the use of Additive Manufacturing in different areas and therefore allow the boost of the entire sector.

CECIMO appreciates the Commission's ambition of having SMEs at the core of the updated industrial strategy, as 80% of the European Machine Tool and related manufacturing technologies are small and medium-sized enterprises. However, SMEs will need to introduce changes in data-driven business and operational models. Therefore, we believe that financial and administrative support for SMEs will be needed in order to implement digital solutions.

The machine tool sector relies on the particular skills of its posted workers to perform the delivery of the machines, the installation of components, and their maintenance. CECIMO welcomes the decision of the Commission to coordinate a homogeneous approach to the posting of workers as it will ensure that the MT sector can accomplish its delivery and maintenance obligation to its customers all over Europe and the world.

A successful industrial strategy will rely on partnerships and collaboration, especially in terms of technology and innovation transfer in critical technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, additive manufacturing) and reskilling of workers. Therefore, CECIMO welcomes the Commission's initiative on Industrial alliances, as we believe that this approach can boost businesses' collaboration and investments within the market. Moreover, we look forward to contributing to the work of the Alliance for Industrial Data, Edge and Cloud, that the Commission is preparing to launch. CECIMO fully supports the Commission's efforts to pool public-private investments via Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) in areas where the market alone cannot deliver breakthrough innovation.

CECIMO believes that the industry strategy should foster the development and adoption of key technologies (e.g. additive manufacturing) in the different industrial ecosystems. According to the Joint Research Centre (JRC) report "Critical Raw Materials for Strategic Technologies and Sectors in the EU" the EU has a relatively strong position in metal-based additive manufacturing for aerospace applications. To consolidate the leadership in this ecosystem and others (e.g. healthcare and automotive), it will be crucial to invest in technology development, market uptake, standardisation and skills. Hence, we believe that the new Alliance on Space Launchers will need to include advanced manufacturing sector and have its active contribution to build the common roadmap for the next generation of launchers. CECIMO encourages the Commission to tackle the shortcomings highlighted in the JRC report. The majority of the key technology addressed in the report will face major raw material demand increase that will lead to supply chain disruption in many sectors. This issue should be discussed in the Raw Material Alliance with the objective to Investigate new (material) innovation partnerships, strengthen the resilience of industrial ecosystems and foster the use of recycled material.

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 + UK+ 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 approximately 17 billion euros in 2020. More than three quarters of CECIMO production is shipped abroad, whereas half of it is exported outside Europe.

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