

To: European Commission
Attn.: Mr Stéphane Séjourné,
Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
Address: Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium

18 February 2025

Re: Joint letter- Strategic role of Advanced Manufacturing in the Clean Industrial Deal

Dear Executive Vice-President Séjourné,

We are writing to you on behalf of European associations representing diverse industrial sectors that support millions of jobs across the European Union (EU). We are concerned that the upcoming Clean Industrial Deal may overlook the crucial role of the advanced manufacturing industry in driving innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth across various critical industrial sectors in the EU.

Our involvement in the development of the recent report by the Industrial Forum Task Force 5 on Advanced Manufacturing¹, alongside the publication of the study by the Joint Research Centre², highlights a clear and compelling conclusion: advanced manufacturing is essential for strengthening competitiveness and resilience of European industry.

Advanced manufacturing technologies are a driver of high value and disruptive innovation, and processes play a vital role in enhancing industrial productivity and operational efficiency. Their adoption enables industries to achieve substantial advancements in process automation and production efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate the design and production of complex structures that conventional processes cannot generally manufacture, and embed circular economy principles within production processes.

Furthermore, advanced manufacturing fosters increased digitalisation, driving higher productivity, and greater competitiveness across the entire value chain. However, the deployment of these solutions is not progressing fast enough. Other global markets are advancing aggressively, and the EU's current strengths in this vital sector are at risk of being eroded. To reinforce this sector, the EU must remove excessive regulatory burdens and address inconsistent policies that hinder European competitiveness. As highlighted in the Letta and Draghi reports, bureaucracy and fragmented regulations have weakened companies' ability to thrive in the EU. European companies in innovative sectors, such as advanced manufacturing, struggle to scale due to restrictive and complex rules and lack of investments. Tackling these

¹ Advanced Manufacturing at the heart of a resilient, sustainable and competitive Europe Recommendations by the EU Industrial Forum: <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/54817/attachments/1/translations/en/renditions/native>

² Strategic insights into the EU's advanced manufacturing industry: trends and comparative analysis: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/advanced-manufacturing-key-eu-competitiveness-2024-09-24_en

barriers and focusing on increasing competitiveness will be essential to ensuring that the EU maintains its leadership in industrial innovation and does not fall behind other global players.

To fully realise the potential of advanced manufacturing, it is essential that the Clean Industrial Deal to increase competitiveness and reduce regulatory barriers for companies. It should also consider the recommendations outlined in the Task Force 5 report and include the launch of a dedicated strategy for advanced manufacturing, aimed at leveraging its strengths and opportunities through clear and actionable measures. Furthermore, to avoid inconsistencies, any action taken should be fully aligned with EU upcoming initiatives, such as Apply AI strategy and Data Union strategy, Bioeconomy strategy and Biotech Act. By embedding these actions into the Clean Industrial Deal, the European Commission can secure the EU's leadership in a sector is key for the EU's competitiveness, economic security and industrial resilience.

We urge you to ensure that advanced manufacturing receives the recognition and strategic focus it deserves in shaping the future of EU's industrial landscape.

We look forward to continuing this important discussion and are ready to actively support the Commission's ongoing commitment to strengthening the EU's industry. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in a more detailed conversation on this critical matter and would be pleased to arrange a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Should you wish to organise a meeting or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

