



**cecimo**  
European Association of Manufacturing Technologies

# "MADE IN EU" PRINCIPLE

## CECIMO POSITION PAPER

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## "Made in EU" Principle

The European Commission's proposed Industrial Accelerator Act, published on 4 March 2026, introduces "Made in EU" and low-carbon criteria into public procurement, public funding and other support schemes. The "Made in EU" principle aims to strengthen European production, reduce strategic dependencies and address the effects of heavily subsidised foreign competition.

CECIMO supports the objective of the "Made in EU" principle. Manufacturing technologies underpin every industrial value chain, and Europe's competitiveness depends on its ability to develop and produce the advanced equipment used to manufacture strategic products. The "Made in EU" principle should therefore strengthen Europe's industrial capacity by:

- expanding industrial production capacity and reinforcing Europe's long-term manufacturing base;
- encouraging investment in production facilities, factory modernisation and advanced manufacturing technologies;
- strengthening resilient and competitive European value chains while preserving cooperation with trusted international partners;
- creating market conditions that encourage companies to manufacture, innovate and invest in Europe.

European preference should remain a competitiveness instrument, not a protectionist objective. Success should be measured by increased industrial investment, production capacity, productivity and technological leadership, rather than simply by the percentage of European content in a product.

## Europe is aligning with international practice

The European Union is not introducing an unprecedented approach. Major industrial economies already use procurement and industrial policies to strengthen domestic manufacturing, including:

- **United States:** Buy American and Buy America requirements give preference to domestically manufactured products in federal procurement and publicly funded infrastructure projects.
- **China:** government procurement policies favour products manufactured in China while supporting domestic industrial development.
- **India:** the "Make in India" programme applies minimum local-content requirements and procurement preferences for domestic suppliers.

The proposed European approach is therefore not exceptional but rather a response to an increasingly competitive global environment.

## Preserve integrated European value chains

European manufacturing relies on highly integrated value chains extending beyond the European Union's borders. CECIMO therefore supports the Commission's concept of "content equivalent to Union origin" and believes that countries linked to the European Union through free trade agreements, customs unions or equivalent arrangements should be eligible for equivalent treatment.

In particular, countries with which the European Union has concluded free trade agreements, such as Switzerland and the United Kingdom, or a customs union, such as Türkiye, are deeply integrated into European manufacturing value chains. Excluding them from equivalent treatment could disrupt established supply chains, increase costs and weaken Europe's industrial competitiveness. The framework should reflect this close economic integration and provide companies with clear and predictable rules.

Nevertheless, equivalent treatment should remain subject to appropriate safeguards. Any decision to restrict such treatment should consider the level of economic integration, reciprocal market access and the scope of the relevant agreement. Restrictions intended to address strategic dependencies should target specific products or parts of a value chain rather than exclude trusted partners entirely.

## Manufacturing technologies are strategic to a successful Made in EU

Manufacturing technologies are the foundation of Europe's ability to produce. Machine tools, additive manufacturing systems, robotics and industrial automation enable the manufacture of virtually every strategic product, from aerospace and defence equipment to medical devices, semiconductors and clean technologies. A successful "Made in EU" policy therefore depends not only on where products are assembled, but also on Europe's capacity to develop and manufacture the technologies that make their production possible.

If aerospace, defence, nuclear, energy, space, semiconductors and medical technologies are considered strategic, the production equipment, software, metrology, testing capabilities, process know-how and skills underpinning them should be recognised as strategic industrial capabilities as well. This assessment should also extend upstream, as advanced production systems depend on electronic components, control systems, sensors, drives, high-performance materials, critical raw materials and specialised sub-suppliers. A "Made in EU" approach limited to final products would risk overlooking vulnerabilities across these essential supply chains.

The need to strengthen Europe's manufacturing capabilities is becoming increasingly urgent. European machine tool production declined by 6.6% in 2025, marking the second consecutive year of significant contraction. At the same time, Europe's share of global machine tool production and consumption has continued to fall, reflecting broader shifts in global manufacturing capacity and industrial competitiveness.

The implications extend well beyond the sector itself. Manufacturing technologies are horizontal industrial capabilities that support multiple strategic value chains simultaneously. Investment in these technologies can increase productivity, accelerate industrial modernisation, strengthen Europe's capacity to scale production, maintain and repair critical assets, and respond to crises, while reducing exposure to external supply disruptions.

For these reasons, the application of the "Made in EU" principle should extend beyond final products to the technologies and capabilities underpinning their production. This requires a targeted, proportionate and evidence-based use of European preference, focusing on strategic dependencies, security-of-supply risks and the availability of European alternatives, while preserving openness towards trusted and closely integrated partners. Such an approach would contribute to more resilient supply chains and reinforce Europe's long-term industrial competitiveness

## Recommendations on the "Made in EU" concept

CECIMO believes that the "Made in EU" principle should be implemented in a way that strengthens Europe's industrial competitiveness, supports investment in manufacturing capabilities and preserves integrated European value chains.

### To achieve these objectives, CECIMO recommends:

- ▶ **Promote competitiveness rather than protectionism.** The objective should be to make Europe an attractive location for manufacturing and industrial investment, rather than relying solely on mandatory local-content requirements. European preference should support industrial competitiveness, production capacity and technological leadership.
- ▶ **Preserve integrated European value chains and cooperation with trusted partners.** Content from countries linked to the European Union through free trade agreements, customs unions or equivalent arrangements should generally be eligible for treatment as equivalent to Union-origin content, subject to clear and proportionate safeguards. Any restriction should address specific strategic dependencies, taking into account reciprocal market access, security-of-supply risks and the level of economic integration.
- ▶ **Recognise manufacturing technologies as strategic industrial enablers.** The implementation of the "Made in EU" principle should extend beyond final products to the technologies and capabilities underpinning their production. Machine tools, additive manufacturing systems, robotics, industrial automation, software, metrology and testing capabilities should be explicitly considered in relevant procurement, funding and industrial support measures.
- ▶ **Encourage investment and ensure proportionate implementation.** European industrial support measures should promote investment in productive manufacturing capacity, factory modernisation and advanced manufacturing technologies. Origin requirements should be harmonised across the EU, digitally manageable and designed to minimise administrative burdens, particularly for SMEs, with appropriate exemptions where European alternatives are unavailable or compliance would impose disproportionate costs.
- ▶ **Measure success through industrial outcomes.** The effectiveness of the "Made in EU" principle should be assessed through increased industrial investment, production capacity, productivity, technological leadership and supply-chain resilience, rather than solely through compliance with origin thresholds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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**About CECIMO:**

CECIMO is the European Association of Manufacturing Technologies. With a primary focus on machine tools and additive technologies, we bring together 14 national associations of machine tool builders, which represent approximately 1500 industrial enterprises in Europe (EU + UK+ EFTA + Türkiye), over 80% of which are SMEs. CECIMO covers 97% of the total machine tool production in Europe and about 1/3 worldwide. It accounts for approximately 150,000 employees and a turnover of around 23.4 billion euros in 2025.

\*CECIMO8 Total orders index is a combined domestic and foreign orders index of eight major CECIMO MT producers (Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Spain, Austria, France, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic), weighted by 2021 production levels.

## CECIMO Members



**Austria: Metaltechnology Austria**  
Die Metalltechnische Industrie



**Germany: VDW**  
Verein Deutscher  
Werkzeugmaschinenfabriken e.V.



**Sweden: MTAS**  
MTAS – Manufacturing Technologies Association  
Sweden



**Belgium: AGORIA**  
The Federation of Technology Industry



**Italy: UCIMU**  
Associazione dei costruttori Italiani di macchine utensili  
robot e automazione



**Switzerland: SWISSMEM**  
Die Schweizer Maschinen-, Elektro- und Metall-  
Industrie



**Czech Republic: SST**  
Svazu Strojírenské Technologie



**Netherlands: FPT-VIMAG**  
FederatieProductieTechnologie / Sectie VIMAG



**Türkiye: MIB Makina**  
İmalatçıları Birliği



**Finland: Technology Industries of Finland**



**Portugal: AIMMAP**  
Associação dos Industriais Metalúrgicos,  
Metalomecânicos e Afins de Portugal



**United Kingdom: MTA**  
The Manufacturing Technologies Association



**Spain: AFM Cluster**  
Asociación española de fabricantes de máquinas-  
herramienta, accesorios, componentes y herramientas



**France: Evolis**  
Organisation professionnelle des biens  
d'équipement