## **European Parliament**

2019-2024



### Plenary sitting

B9-0087/2023

25.1.2023

## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs (2023/2513(RSP))

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#### B9-0087/2023

# European Parliament resolution on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs (2023/2513(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Article 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU),
- having regard to Article 207 TFEU,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 10 March 2020 entitled 'A New Industrial Strategy for Europe' (COM(2020)0102),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 5 May 2021 entitled 'Updating the 2020 New Industrial Strategy: Building a stronger Single Market for Europe's recovery' (COM(2021)0350),
- having regard to the statements by the Council and the Commission of 18 January 2023 on an EU strategy to boost industrial competitiveness, trade and quality jobs,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the United States has adopted the Inflation Reduction Act, signed into law on 16 August 2022, aimed at stimulating investment in domestic manufacturing capacity, encouraging the procurement of critical supplies domestically or from free-trade partners and jump-starting research and development and the commercialisation of leading-edge technologies such as carbon capture and storage and clean hydrogen; whereas the extensive package of public subsidies devised by the US Government threatens to divert investment by companies in Europe overseas;
- B. whereas the Commission recently announced that it would propose a net-zero industry act to compete with increased US spending on subsidies and in response to concerns raised on this matter in the EU capital; whereas the proposal would set out clean tech objectives for 2030; whereas funds cannot come only from the public sector and without a new boost in funds for European industry from the institutions, businesses will suffer from the negative consequences of the new legislation;
- C. whereas the phenomenon of relocating European industries has been fuelled, inter alia, by fiscal and environmental over-regulation, as well as by the adoption of trade agreements that have damaged domestic manufacturing without taking into account the real needs of European industry;
- D. whereas high energy prices are creating an uncompetitive landscape for European industry; whereas there is a need for a revision of State aid rules and competition policies;

- E. whereas reindustrialisation and relocation within the Union and the Member States should be the priority for supportive measures; whereas relocation policies should be based on essential and strategic sectors that will guarantee the sovereignty of the Member States, in particular in the face of geopolitical, financial, social, health and environmental crises;
- F. whereas 99 % of EU businesses are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), representing around 50 % of the EU's gross domestic product and employing more than 100 million workers; whereas women and people with disabilities still remain underrepresented across industrial sectors, occupations and management levels;
- 1. Underlines the failure of the industrial policies pursued by the European Union during the last decades; is worried that the Green Deal, the EU Climate Law and the Fit for 55 legislative package will further undermine the competitiveness of European industry and that this will put additional strain on the various models of representation and participation in the Member States;
- 2. Underlines that industry and employment policies are under the Member States' competence and that it is up to them to develop a proper industrial strategy and enhance the exchange of information and good practices in order to achieve a positive impact on working conditions and workers' rights and avoid wage and social dumping;
- 3. Considers that European companies will be key actors in the next industrial revolution, providing affordable and cleaner energy sources and manufacturing methods and transforming service delivery; believes that it is essential to support models of virtuous collaboration between the different players involved in research, development and commercialisation supported by public authorities, companies, universities, very small, small and medium-sized enterprises, start-ups, trade unions, end-user organisations and all relevant actors working together to foster innovation, including in areas not yet covered by industrial interests;
- 4. Highlights that a future 'Made in Europe Act' must aim to accelerate innovation, particularly in the key areas of digitalisation and production, and embrace strategies that promote the recovery of quality employment and manufacturing opportunities in order to increase global competitiveness and avoid excessive dependency on foreign providers, particularly in strategic sectors such as energy, semiconductors, pharmaceutical and medical devices, cyber and data security, digitalisation and agriculture;
- 5. Underlines the importance of a sustainable strategy that does not jeopardise the global competitiveness of industry and SMEs and does not put their workers in danger; stresses that SMEs have to deal with too much red tape and that the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 package represent a disproportionate additional financial burden overall in the light of the current energy crisis;
- 6. Stresses the need for a more inclusive revival of European industry in order to avoid any discrimination against traditional productive sectors and any exclusion of industrial sectors which could disappear in the absence of a real strategy; stresses the diversity of the current European industrial network: insists that the Commission should strive for dynamism in those industries which support the economy of the Member States and the

European regions;

- 7. Calls on the Commission to adopt measures to incentivise Member States to relocate manufacturing activities to the EU;
- 8. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to equip themselves with effective trade defence instruments and to closely monitor the effectiveness of the recent foreign direct investment screening instrument in order to improve their capacity to prevent hostile takeovers by non-EU companies that could threaten the labour markets, while remaining strongly committed to the commercial partners of our industries;
- 9. Highlights the need to create a supportive environment for SMEs that enables them to develop and grow, for example, by reducing the unnecessary regulatory burden, facilitating access to finance and supporting entrepreneurship, which are critical for innovation, job creation and inclusion; calls on the Member States to enhance the exchange of information and good practices in order to achieve a positive impact on working conditions and workers' rights and to avoid wage and social dumping;
- 10. Calls on the Member States to address and promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in industrial sectors and workplaces, and in society as a whole, by tackling discrimination, fostering solidarity and ensuring accessibility by removing physical, digital, educational and social barriers and building on digital assistive technologies;
- 11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

