

Warsaw, 26 September 2016

Mr Jyrki Katainen
Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Investment
and Competitiveness

Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska
European Commissioner for the Internal
Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and
SMEs

European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat
B-1049 Brussels

Dear Vice-President, Dear Commissioner,

All has been said about the importance of industry for innovation, job creation and growth in the European Union. To put the EU economy back on track, the relaunch of European industry has been identified as a priority by the European Commission and the European Council. Concrete ideas for boosting industrial competitiveness have been discussed at a series of Ministerial Conferences of the Friends of Industry, to which the Commission also made significant contributions.

At the last meeting of the *Friends of Industry*, held in Warsaw on 22 April 2016, there was a large consensus on the need to put in place an ambitious, two-tier approach at European level. On the one hand, we need to better take into account the needs of industry in all policy areas that are relevant for determining the EU's competitiveness, such as energy, trade, climate and environment policy.

On the other hand, there is also a need for a horizontal strategic framework at EU level.

We therefore called on the Commission to come forward with a dedicated Communication on industrial policy to take stock of the current situation and of the effectiveness of the measures taken in the last two years, for example on industrial mainstreaming and the Investment Plan for Europe. Furthermore, the Communication should set out an Action Plan - including concrete deliverables and deadlines - to tackle the main challenges that the various industrial sectors are facing. We firmly believe that a more thorough and comprehensive approach is required to strengthen Europe's industrial base.

We are writing to you at a crucial time. In the coming weeks, the Commission will decide on its work programme for 2017, which will define the main priorities and actions for the coming twelve months. We are counting on your support to make sure that industry will be on the top of the Commission's agenda, and that our commitment will be translated into concrete actions.

We are looking forward to continue our close cooperation with you.

[SIGNATORIES]
VIDE

Mr Dr Reinhold MITTERLEHNER
Vice Chancellor
Federal Minister of Science, Research and
Economy
Republic of Austria

Mr Kris PEETERS
Deputy Prime Minister
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Mr Jean-Claude MARCOURT
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Mr Bozhidar LOUKARSKI
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Mr Jan MLÁDEK
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Mr Christophe SIRUGUE
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Mr Mihály VARGA
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