

Mr Frans Timmermans

First Vice-President for Better Regulation,
Interinstitutional Relations, Rule of Law &
Charter of Fundamental Rights
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

EU industrial policy: Time to move forward now

Dear First Vice-President,

In spring 2016, BusinessEurope and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) highlighted the importance of industry for growth, jobs and high living standards. Today it is time to move forward. It is time to give industry its right place among European Union's future priorities.

European industry and its employees strongly believe in Europe but need a positive signal now. Other regions in the world are industrializing heavily while putting Europe in question. Hence, we need to create a positive vision for Europe's industry, including SMEs, again. Europe must settle itself high up in global value chains. Only then can we improve social, economic and environmental standards.

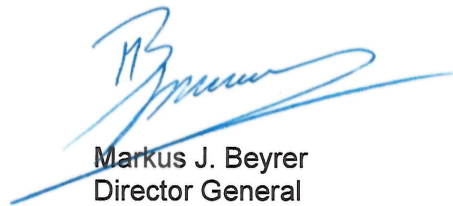
In line with the new approach of the European Commission to mainstream industrial competitiveness, we call on you to support the incorporation of an ambitious industrial policy strategy in the 2017 work programme. Progressing on industrial policy first means to shed light and increase awareness of the many EU and national policy levers which contribute to industrial policy objectives. In this, the European Commission has an important role to give shape to a coherent and transversal EU industrial policy strategy. It is necessary to take stock of previous initiatives and identify possible and effective new measures at EU and national levels. Also, we must make sure that the EU governance delivers for all sectors.

2017 will be decisive and we count on you now. It is time to act together. Both BusinessEurope and the ETUC stand ready to support an ambitious strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Luca Visentini
General Secretary
ETUC



Markus J. Beyrer
Director General
BusinessEurope