



Motion

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Title: Towards a green, globally competitive and digital European industry

Motion text

1 Submitted by Political Commission 2: Internal European Affairs

2 Adopted by the Federal Committee on 11 November 2023 in Madrid, Spain. Re-
3 adopted and amended by the Federal Committee on 19 April 2026 in Belgrade,
4 Serbia.

5 European industry stands at a turning point. High energy costs, geopolitical
6 tensions and growing global subsidy races are putting pressure on Europe's
7 competitiveness. At the same time, ambitious climate and digital goals require
8 profound transformation.

9 JEF Europe,

10 ● Recognising that a strong and innovative industrial base is fundamental to
11 Europe's prosperity, social stability and strategic autonomy, providing the
12 technologies, infrastructure and production capacities necessary to drive the
13 green and digital transitions and ensure long term economic resilience;

14 ● Recalling that European industry provides 35 million jobs, accounts for 80% of
15 goods exports, 22.3% of GDP and is the key driver for the EU's position as a top
16 global provider of high-tech products;

17 ● Emphasising that only a Federal Europe, endowed with autonomous fiscal
18 authority, possesses the capacity to deploy the resources necessary for the

19 renewal of European industry;

20 ● Highlighting the role of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often
21 acting as key local suppliers;

22 ● Welcoming the Clean Industrial Deal as the EU's renewed framework to
23 strengthen industrial competitiveness while accelerating decarbonisation,
24 reinforcing the Single Market and scaling up clean technologies, in line with
25 the EU's climate objectives;

26 ● Welcoming the implementation of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting
27 Directive (CSRD) requiring large companies to disclose environmental, social and
28 governance information according to the European Sustainability Reporting
29 Standards (ESRS), enhancing transparency and accountability on sustainability
30 issues;

31 ● Acknowledging that industrial activities are also a strong driver of
32 environmental pollution and carbon emissions;

33 ● Deeply convinced that Europe's industry can and should be transformed to meet
34 the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), binding
35 emissions targets and the goal of climate neutrality by 2050 set in the EU
36 climate law, and initiatives such as the European Green Deal;

37 ● Emphasising the need to protect workers' health, safety and well being in the
38 European industry, while addressing job losses, precarious employment models,
39 and

40 the social consequences of globalisation and delocalisation that undermine the
41 stability and status of industrial workers and young people;

42 ● Acknowledging that the EU's industrial and economic power translates into
43 normative power, and that all these powers can be used to contribute to global
44 development, as well as promote human rights and environmental justice in the
45 world through smart trade agreements;

46 ● Welcoming the entry into force of the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
47 (CBAM), the strengthened Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Corporate
48 Sustainability Due Diligence Directive, stressing the need for their effective
49 implementation to prevent carbon leakage, ensure respect for human rights,
50 environmental standards in global supply chains and uphold fair competition;

51 ● Recognising that increasingly global and complex value chains create strategic
52 dependencies, reduce economic resilience and make it harder to enforce fair
53 competition and sustainable standards;

54 ● Deeply concerned about the potential misuse of industrial policy as a weapon
55 by revisionist autocracies, through restrictions on the export of critical raw
56 materials, energy sources or other key technologies or services;

57 ● Welcoming the European Commission's initiatives to strengthen Europe's open
58 strategic autonomy including the launch of Important Projects of Common European
59 Interest (IPCEIs) in key strategic sectors such as microelectronics, hydrogen
60 and batteries, mobilising an expected total of EUR 92.2 billion in public and
61 private investment, as well as the in depth review of strategic areas to
62 identify and reduce critical dependencies in European supply chains;

63 ● Recognising the EU's shift towards a more strategic industrial and trade
64 policy, illustrated by recent initiatives such as the Industrial Accelerator
65 Act, which seek to strengthen resilient clean technology supply chains and
66 prioritise cooperation with trusted economic partners;

67 ● Emphasising that Europe's future industry depends on sufficient investment in
68 new innovations, technology, Research and Development (R&D) as well as skill
69 training, which should be a joint European endeavour to boost competitiveness,
70 specialisation and sustainability;

71 ● Recognising that in high-tech fields in particular, much innovation is done by
72 large companies, and thus it may be necessary to accept more mergers between
73 European companies to create European champions in key industries;

74 ● Reaffirming JEF Europe's resolutions that are interconnected, complement the
75 need for an industrial transition and propose concrete solutions: "A European
76 Transition to a Circular Economy", "Calling for an ethical and efficient EU
77 policy framework on Artificial Intelligence", "For a United Digital Europe",
78 "Environment does not stop at borders: Towards a Sustainable Europe and a
79 Sustainable Global Climate Policy", "Better integrated and more sustainable
80 mobility infrastructure for an Ever Closer Union", ; "Advancing the European
81 Union's Social Dimension", "On the creation of a Fiscal Union in the Eurozone",
82 and "Towards sustainable, reliable and affordable energy for Europe".

83 JEF Europe therefore:

84 1. Calls on the European industry to accelerate investment in decarbonisation,

85 **digitalisation and strategic value chains to secure Europe's industrial**
86 **leadership and strategic autonomy by 2030;**

87 **2. Envisions a European clean industrial transformation that scales up net-zero**
88 **and carbon negative technologies, advanced manufacturing and secures critical**
89 **infrastructure, strengthening Europe's resilience in key sectors;**

90 **3. Calls for the European Commission and Member States to safeguard the**
91 **integrity of the Single Market through the elimination of remaining trade**
92 **barriers, ensuring consistent enforcement of EU competition and merger rules**
93 **whilst maintaining a level playing field within the EU and globally;**

94 **4. Calls on the EU to better coordinate with its global partners and avoid**
95 **expensive subsidy races in areas where it is desirable to diversify our supply**
96 **or reduce our strategic dependency, such as, but not limited to, battery**
97 **technology, microchips, critical raw materials, and energy sources;**

98 **5. Supports a European relocalisation of vital industrial activities to provide**
99 **for more of Europe's own consumption, ensuring shorter and more resilient supply**
100 **chains and creating long-term, well-paid jobs for European workers;**

101 **6. Calls on the EU and Member States to ensure robust implementation of the**
102 **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), using its revenues to support the**
103 **decarbonisation of energy intensive industries while preserving competitiveness**
104 **and avoiding unnecessary trade disputes;**

105 **7. Calls on the EU, Member States and industries for a more decisive move**
106 **towards a circular economy through the implementation of a cascading use and**
107 **cradle-to-cradle principles in our production chains, waste management and**
108 **through a life-cycle assessment of critical components and raw materials;**

109 **8. Urges the EU to defend high social and environmental standards in its trade**
110 **policy without descending into protectionism, by coupling ambitious climate**
111 **policies with active diplomacy to avoid retaliation;**

112 **9. Urges the European Commission to develop concrete measures to reduce the use**
113 **of critical raw materials, batteries and plastics where sustainable alternatives**
114 **exist, to strengthen recycling and recovery processes like chemical recycling**
115 **and substitution with circular materials, and to reduce the export of valuable**
116 **waste materials in order to retain resources within the EU;**

117 **10. Calls upon the European Commission to ensure that the extraction and**
118 **processing of natural resources, within and outside the EU, fully respect**
119 **environmental standards such as the DNSH principle as well as the rights of**
120 **local communities and indigenous people, guaranteeing their participation in**
121 **decision making processes;**

122 **11. Calls upon the EU and Member States to develop on their territories critical**
123 **raw material extraction that is safe, as well as socially and environmentally**
124 **responsible, to boost our own production and reduce our need for imports as well**
125 **as our dependencies;**

126 **12. Expects the EU's and Member States' industrial strategies to support the**
127 **fight against in-work poverty and inequality, as well as to ensure strong and**
128 **equitable workers' rights with equal access and opportunities guaranteed for,**
129 **but not limited to, women, minority workers, and young people;**

130 **13. Calls for EU funds aimed at industrial transition, such as the Just**
131 **Transition Fund, to become real funds of solidarity, that ensure fair**
132 **distribution across society, between regions and countries, underlining the**
133 **importance of European territorial cohesion;**

134 **14. Encourages the EU and the Member States to strengthen support for startups,**
135 **SMEs and larger companies by fostering already existing and emerging networks**
136 **across Europe, promoting the exchange of knowledge and best practices on**
137 **sustainable digitalisation as well as enhancing their capacity to grow and**
138 **compete globally;**

139 **15. Calls for the EU to significantly strengthen and expand sovereign European**
140 **investment instruments, including dedicated technology sovereignty funds, to**
141 **support the development and scaling of strategic digital and industrial**
142 **technologies, ensure European ownership of critical assets, and reduce**
143 **dependency on non-European capital and investors.**