



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND BRIEF¹
Brussels, 13 November 2020

VIDEOCONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF INTERNAL MARKET AND INDUSTRY 19 November 2020

Ministers in charge of the internal market and industry will have an informal policy debate on how to make the most from the EU recovery plan for a more dynamic, resilient and competitive European industry through investments in the green transformation. The video conference will be chaired by Mr Peter Altmaier, German federal minister for economic affairs and energy. It will start at 09:00 and is expected to finish by +/- 13:00.

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Press briefing: Monday 16 November 2020 at 13:00

Virtual press conference:

Thursday 19 November at +/- 13:30

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[Video conference of ministers of internal market and industry page](#)

[Press conferences and public events by video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

Making the most of recovery: A more dynamic, resilient and competitive European industry through investments in the green transformation

#cleanindustry

Ministers will have an informal policy debate on how to make the most from the recovery plan for achieving a more dynamic, resilient and competitive European industry through investments in the green transformation.

The discussion will also be linked to the conclusions on ‘A recovery advancing the transition towards a more dynamic, resilient and competitive European industry’, which are expected to be adopted by the Council on 16 November through a written procedure.

Ministers are invited to structure their interventions around the following three questions :

- ‘a) What, in your view, are two central aspects that the update of the industrial strategy should focus on?
- b) In your view, what specific measures, including the ones already on the table, could especially help or will be most effective in order to implement a green and sustainable transformation whilst safeguarding and raising the competitiveness of European industry at the same time?
- c) What adjustments are needed in order to foster cooperation on industrial technologies and how can we organise the relevant processes to make them more efficient for everyone?’

Background

In response to repeated calls by the European Council, the Commission published its communication on the New Industrial Strategy for Europe in March 2020.

The COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the European economy reinforced the need for a swift, ambitious and comprehensive industrial policy response at EU and national level, covering all industrial ecosystems.

The Commission announced recently an update to the New Industrial Strategy for Europe, which would be presented in the first half of 2021 and would take into account the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis, the global competitive context and the need to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions. Ministers' discussions on 19 November (together with the Council conclusions mentioned above) will be the Council's input to the Commission's preparations in this regard.

[EU industrial policy \(background information\)](#)

Any other business

a) 2020 annual report of the SME Envoy Network

The Commission will present the 2020 annual report of the SME Envoy Network. The report provides an overview of the latest trends in the performance of SMEs in Europe and summarises the work done by the SME envoys in 2020. It also presents the activities planned by the network in 2021 as well as recommendations for action.

b) New Consumer Agenda

The Commission adopted its communication on the new European Consumer Agenda on 13 November.

As the current European Consumer Agenda will expire at the end of 2020, the Commission considers that there is a need to take a new look at priorities for the coming years, especially in the light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission's objective is to reinforce synergies between the EU and national consumer policies around several priorities, in particular the green and digital transitions and effective enforcement of consumer rights online.

[New Consumer Agenda: European Commission to empower consumers to become the driver of transition \(Commission press release\)](#)

c) Work programme of the incoming presidency

The Portuguese delegation will present the priorities of its upcoming presidency in the field of the internal market and industry.
