



# EUROPE'S INDUSTRY UNITED FOR AN INSPIRING FUTURE

|| alliance for a competitive european industry





## ACEI Members



# EUROPE'S INDUSTRY UNITED FOR AN INSPIRING FUTURE

The Alliance for a Competitive European Industry (ACEI) was created 15 years ago to harness the collective intelligence of 11 of Europe's leading industry sector associations and BusinessEurope.

The ACEI provides a proactive vision to EU policymakers on how to promote the competitiveness of the European industry on a global scale and transform it towards a sustainable and low-carbon future.

The manufacturing industry and its skilled workforce are at the heart of Europe's prosperity.

Collectively, the Alliance members are sizeable contributors to the overall manufacturing industry's economic weight in Europe.



ACEI represents:

**20.6M jobs**

**73%\***

**1.2M companies**

**58%\***

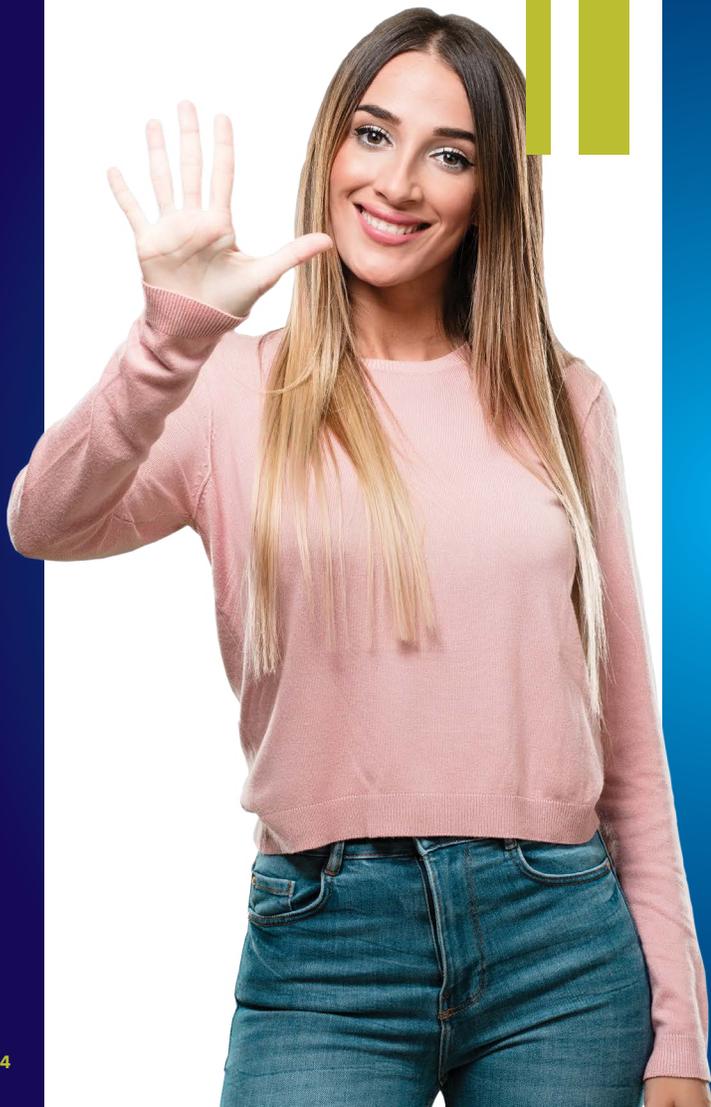
**€ 5.8T turnover**

**79%\***

**10.6% of EU GDP**

**70%\***

\* Percentage of overall EU manufacturing industry  
Source: Eurostat SBS (Structure Business Statistics), year 2015



**Hand  
in hand**  
for a  
strong and  
integrated  
Europe.

# FIVE OPPORTUNITIES, FIVE YEARS

The critical challenges that Europe faces today call upon EU policymakers and industry to work together more closely than ever before, acting as partners to ensure Europe's social, environmental and economic progress.

Europe's industry champions work for a strong and integrated Europe which creates jobs, promotes innovation, and simultaneously addresses climate change and sustainability.

The strong and integrated Europe we support will fuel the industrial growth needed for the EU to help keep its citizens united and able to resist global protectionism.

Europe's Industry has identified five opportunities to revitalise Europe's industrial partnership over the next five years.

Policymakers and industry share a responsibility towards European citizens to create the conditions that support our collective freedom and prosperity.

**The Europe we want for our employees, friends, colleagues and families is:**

- 1. UNITED**
- 2. INNOVATIVE**
- 3. SUSTAINABLE**
- 4. GLOBAL**
- 5. SOCIAL**

**A thriving industry is at the heart of Europe's renewal. We commit to supporting the European institutions' efforts to adopt an ambitious long-term industrial strategy, which will allow us to deliver on these five key opportunities together.**



1.

**Harmonised  
legislation  
across the EU**  
is essential  
for growth, jobs  
and services.

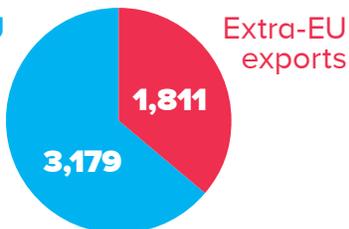
# A UNITED EUROPE

**Harmonised legislation and mutual recognition across the European Union are essential for driving business growth and competitiveness.**

The Internal Market needs to operate smoothly to realise the full potential for growth, jobs and services. Although some progress has been achieved in this field, substantial obstacles remain which prevent European businesses from living up to their economic potential.

EU manufacturing industry exports values  
(2018, € billion)

Intra-EU  
exports



Source: Eurostat

**We call on the EU institutions to:**

- **Create the conditions for a fully operational EU Internal Market** by removing all barriers to the free movement of goods and services;
- **Ensure consistent implementation and enforcement of EU legislation** throughout Europe, with stable and smart policies and with effective market surveillance, while fostering job creation and social integration;
- **Stand against measures** which impede the functioning of a European market;
- **Enable a human-centric, vibrant digital future** that builds on technological breakthroughs and takes society with it.



**Strengthening  
investments**  
will keep us on  
top of the curve  
and guarantee  
the prosperity of  
Europe's citizens.

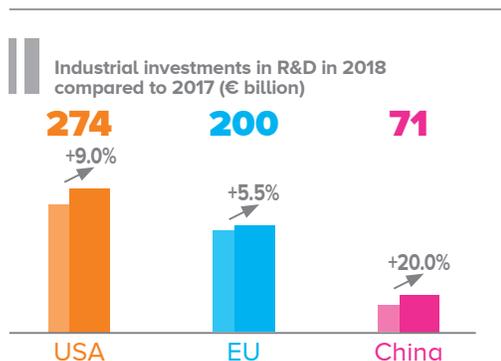
2.



# AN INNOVATIVE EUROPE

As the innovation race accelerates globally, so does the speed at which new products and solutions reach markets.

Strengthening investments into research, development and deployment of innovative solutions at scale will keep us on ahead of the curve and guarantee the well-being and prosperity of Europe's citizens.



Source: The 2018 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard

To support an innovative Europe, we would like to offer our market experience to policy-makers to:

- **Make regulation that is fit for innovation:** nurture the European innovation landscape by designing regulations that are both flexible and stable enough to support investment;
- **Invest in our education systems** for citizens of all ages and encourage them to be more innovative and to take risks across disciplinary borders and into entrepreneurship;
- **Increase and leverage R&D funding** to ensure widespread access to state-of-the-art technology infrastructures to test and scale-up new European technologies;
- **Move towards an exciting and socially responsible digital future** by partnering on new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.



# 3.

European  
industry needs  
to be robust  
**to achieve its  
sustainability  
objectives.**

# A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

The speed and scale of the transformation required to combat climate change is enormous.

European industry needs to be robust to achieve its sustainability objectives, proceed to the investments needed and innovate at full speed. Investments in climate neutrality, resource efficiency and overall sustainability are essential components of European competitiveness.

|| **€ 320 bn**  
will be allocated  
for climate action –  
more than a quarter  
of the next multiannual  
EU budget.

Source: EC Communication "EU budget for the future", 2 May 2018

|| To develop the right policy mix to accelerate the transition, boost Europe's competitiveness and deliver on the Paris Agreement, we are keen to work together with the European Union to consistently advance the objectives of competitiveness and sustainability to:

- **Create** a forward-looking, technology-neutral sustainable finance framework, which boosts investors' confidence;
- **Safeguard** a solid share of the EU budget dedicated to climate action;
- **Improve** the investment environment through efficient market-based frameworks and innovative market design;
- **Facilitate** industrial cooperation around the energy transition and notably the use of clean electricity for the decarbonisation of the economy.



4.

We are proud  
that the EU  
continues  
to be open  
to trade and  
investment and  
advocates **for**  
**multilateralism.**

# A GLOBAL EUROPE

**The European Union relies on exports in an increasingly fragmented global economy.**

We must therefore ensure that the European manufacturing industry operates in a healthy global trade environment to guarantee sustainable growth and jobs' creation.

We are proud that the European Union is and continues to be open to trade and investment. We strongly believe in the virtues of multilateralism and rules-based trade, while applying trade defence measures to counter unfair practices.

**|| To maintain our position, we want to help policy-makers to:**

- **Remain strongly engaged in the reform of the World Trade Organisation** as the guarantor of the world's trade order. Promote a more effective international trading order with modernised rules and a functional dispute settlement mechanism;
- **Continue to develop an ambitious and comprehensive network** of bilateral trade and investment agreements notably in fast growing regions;
- **Improve the implementation and enforceability** of trade rules and trade agreements, so that more European companies can benefit from trade and investment opportunities;
- **Work to maintain a strong and stable relation with the US** as one of our most important trading partners, and seek opportunities to develop a positive agenda while effectively safeguarding European interests;
- **Work to rebalance the relation with China** by promoting a framework that ensures equal and fair treatment for European companies and improved access to the Chinese market. The conclusion of an ambitious Comprehensive Agreement on Investment remains a priority.

**We work together**  
to ensure that  
a skilled  
workforce is  
able to take up  
the challenges  
of the European  
industry.



5.



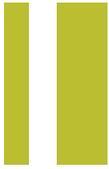
# A SOCIAL EUROPE

**Fewer young people join the European manufacturing industry workforce today than in the past. The EU's population is ageing and stagnating, which is an additional concern for its future workforce.**

These trends occur against a background of rapid change in industry. Decarbonisation, new technologies and business models, innovative products and new technologies substantially transform all manufacturing processes. We want to work together to ensure that a qualified and skilled workforce is able and willing to take up the new roles and challenges that Europe's Industry has to offer, and to improve the overall attractiveness and public perception of the manufacturing industries as workplaces.

## || A dynamic partnership between Industry and the European Union will enable us to:

- **Align the need for skills and curricula**, by developing a highly-qualified and skilled workforce which enables Europe's industry to remain competitive, grow on the global market and keep up with technological advances;
- **Guarantee education and training curricula** – including for re-skilling and up-skilling – that match the current and future needs of the industry, with special emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects, digital and languages, as well as on soft skills that allow for adaptability to fast changing manufacturing processes and conditions;
- **Facilitate cross-border and cross-sectoral labour mobility** by improving transparency and recognition of certificates and degrees in terms of learning outcomes – including from higher education and vocational education and training – in individual Member States and, where appropriate, throughout the European Union;
- **Establish efficient mechanisms for mentoring programmes** to allow the transfer of know-how from an ageing workforce to younger staff;
- **Raise awareness** on the merits and benefits of working for the manufacturing industries in Europe, notably by lifting myths and misunderstandings, including on wages and working conditions.



# CONCLUSION



# UNLOCKING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AN INSPIRING FUTURE

**We stand before an opportunity to build a Europe that is united, innovative, sustainable, global and social. It's time to work together to make it happen.**

Representing a broad spectrum of European industry, the ACEI stands committed to a strong and integrated Europe where innovation drives renewed growth and competitiveness, while enabling social, environmental and economic sustainability.

We call on EU policymakers to work with us and embrace these goals. Together, we can put in place a framework to promote Europe's global industrial leadership while addressing societal challenges from climate change to demographics to unemployment. Together, we can show that EU-level collaboration can deliver for citizens – today and in the future.

If you share this vision and are working to unlock these opportunities for an inspiring future, you can count on our active support.

You can contact us either individually or collectively through the ACEI – we look forward to our dialogue.



## ACEI (Alliance for a Competitive European Industry) members

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