

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

Vice President Tajani is spending part of the week in Germany and France on official visits on behalf of the European Commission. On Tuesday, he met with members of the French government and industry representatives to present the recently adopted Europe 2020 flagship initiative on industrial and innovation policy, and to receive input and ideas on the upcoming communication on raw materials.



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

Commencing his day by meeting with Eric Besson, Minister of Industry, Vice President Tajani joined Mr. Besson in underscoring the urgency in implementing a veritable European industrial policy. To this end, they highlighted the need to improve the framework conditions and new initiatives in the sector, as well as the mobilisation of all community policies in the industrial sector, including innovation, research and competitiveness. Finally, they spoke of the importance of taking into account SMEs' stakes in Europe's new industrial policy. They will continue to work in strict collaboration, notably in tomorrow's Competitiveness Council. Following the meeting, it was also decided that France would contribute to the preparation of a European strategy to guarantee the supply of raw materials for enterprises.

The rest of his day included meetings with Frederic Léfèbvre, Secretary of State for Trade, Small and Medium Enterprises and Tourism; Louis Gallois, CEO of the European Aeronautic Defence and Space Agency (EADS), and Valérie Pécresse, Minister for Higher Education and Research. He also had lunch with Jean-Paul Agon, CEO of l'Oréal.

He was very well received by the Etats généraux de l'emploi, where he discussed how European industry affects employment and the labour market in France. He also urged its members to acquire new competences and to "dare to engage in entrepreneurship", citing the positive example of the Erasmus programme for Young Entrepreneurs.

During his visit to Le Figaro newspaper, he discussed his desire to protect strategic enterprises within the EU from tier country competition and other challenges posed by 'internationalisation'. Citing the recent controversy over the possible purchase of Dutch cable producer Draka by the Chinese group Xinmao, when two European companies (Prysmian from Italy and Nexans from France) had also expressed interest, Vice President Tajani argued protecting European industry is one of his key priorities.

Saying "there is a problem when interests in foreign investments are masked by different motivations, like transferring technologies", the Vice President also added that he has "nothing against foreign investments in Europe, so long as competition rules are respected". Whilst speaking to the French authorities, he stressed the need to create a group that respects European industry, namely a European equivalent to CIFIUS (the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States). This American federal committee has the authority to oppose foreign investments if national interests are at stake.



Credit: Le Figaro

Following his successful day in Paris, Vice President Tajani flew to Düsseldorf to meet with several industry leaders, where he discussed industrial policy, raw materials, corporate social responsibility, and agricultural machinery, also visiting a liquid detergent production plant and regional SME entrepreneurs. He spent Thursday in Berlin, where he discussed a number of the same themes as the preceding day, though he also addressed Volkswagen and wood production. Tomorrow morning will be spent in Hamburg, before returning to Brussels.

As we can see, it was another busy and productive week for Vice President Tajani, with two successful missions ensuring constructive collaboration between Member States and the European Union in industrial matters.