

Cabinet Newsletter

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Dear Reader,

Yesterday morning, Vice President Tajani met with several key European social partners, setting a crucial precedent in relations between the business community in Europe and the European Commission's Industry and Entrepreneurship. The group was made up of John Monks, Secretary-General of ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation); Philippe de Buck, Director-General of BUSINESSEUROPE; Ralph Resch, Secretary-General of CEEP (European Centre of Employers and Enterprises); and Andrea Benassi, Secretary-General of UEAPME (European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).



Antonio Preto
Head of Cabinet

Although a two-sided exchange, Vice President Tajani was especially keen to hear from his partners, welcoming their feedback and ideas on the implementation of Europe's new strategy on industrial policy. Favourable to the document, they added their support for boosting provisions for skills, technologies and infrastructures in the Communication.



John Monks
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The discussion then centred on how to best restructure industrial sectors in order to boost economic growth. Vice President Tajani explained that since the crisis has revealed structural sub-capacities in certain sectors, companies and social partners now have the responsibility of ensuring competitiveness remains at the forefront of any restructuring effort. In order to support such changes, he noted that the Commission is providing its support, for example through the Global Adjustment Fund, which assists unemployed workers in their transition to a new job through financial help. Our social partners expressed their approval of such

measures, and were particularly satisfied with the Vice President's emphasis on "protection, not protectionism" regarding foreign enterprises and our know-how.



Philippe de Buck

In a second point, the Vice President stressed the need for tight collaboration between national, regional and local actors and social partners on the subject of education and training, which are important for promoting entrepreneurship. Arguing for the need to increase the number and quality of both diplomas in sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics and qualified workers, Vice President Tajani received support from the social partners, who were in agreement on the need to emphasise education in entrepreneurship. Their contribution in this domain was also solicited in order to ensure their mutual objectives are achieved.



Ralph Resch

In closing, both Vice President Tajani and the European social partners concurred on the need for coherence between priorities and common initiatives both at the EU and Member State levels. As an outcome of the meeting, it is clear that the European social partners will continue to play an important role in the efforts of the European Commission and Vice President Tajani, as central actors in the economic and social make-up and landscape of their home countries. They promised each other this reunion marked the beginning of an important dialogue with regularly-scheduled, monthly meetings.



Andrea Benassi