

3rd meeting of the High Level Group on Key Enabling Technologies (KETs)

29th of January 2014, in presence of Vice-President Tajani and of Commissioner Hahn

Text of intervention of Mr Zibell during this meeting, held on behalf of Bernadette Ségol, General Secretary of ETUC.

Mister Vice-President, Mister Commissioner,

I would like to draw your attention to the European Trade Union Confederation's "ETUC plan for investment, sustainable growth and quality jobs", adopted in its Executive Committee meeting of 7th November 2013.

Its purpose is to dedicate 2% of European GDP (or EUR 260 billion) per year, over 10 years, to a massive investment effort to modernise European industry, energy systems and infrastructure, in order to achieve competitiveness through the quality of our products and processes.

It is fully coherent with the views expressed here aiming at re-industrialising Europe through Key Enabling Technologies.

In light of this:

- Trade unions share the strategic objective to perform productive investments in European Key Enabling Technologies (KETs), so as to re-industrialise the continent, with the policy perspective of creating high-quality jobs. The high quality of the jobs is important to trade unions. It is also particularly necessary in KETs, because only highly qualified and motivated workers can have the stamina, creativity and rigour that R&D and manufacturing in KETs require.
- For trade unions, the economic and industrial development brought by KETs should be geographically balanced, by using the enabling feature of these technologies, and the Smart Specialisation strategies of regions: some regions will be at the core of the development of KETs, while others should leverage the quality-based competitive advantage brought by KETs-enabled products or processes to develop specific applications of these technologies.
- The ETUC would be willing to have a specific commitment in this direction, namely to encourage its member organisations to actively participate in the Anticipation and Management of Jobs & Skills for KETs, so as to anticipate and fulfil the education, vocational training and conversion needs for this emerging sector.

I thank you for your attention.