

Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship

My mandate

As Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, I am committed to giving a fresh impulse to Europe's ability to lead a new industrial renaissance.

The recent crisis has struck the European economy particularly hard. Europe has lost 4 million jobs in industry and €350 billion in investments. However, we have learned that countries with a strong industrial base have suffered less during these difficult times. There is now a widespread consensus that a strong industrial base is vital for the EU's growth and for job creation. This is underlined in the European Commission's recent Communication calling for an industrial renaissance. On this basis, the European Council acknowledged the central importance of industry and adopted strong conclusions on the way forward. At the request of the European Council, I am determined to work on a detailed roadmap setting out specific actions and measures to be taken in the coming years.

The Roadmap of Initiatives for an Industrial Renaissance should be based on 4 main strategies:

1. Access to markets

Despite the progress made so far, there is still potential to strengthen the internal market by removing the remaining barriers that hamper the competitiveness and growth of business. Particular attention must be given to implementing and enforcing existing laws and to completing the internal services and digital markets. In parallel, internationalisation and access to non-EU markets for European companies must be made a priority.

2. Access to inputs

Particular attention must be given to facilitating access to finance (notably by the COSME and Horizon 2020 programmes), upgrading skills and training programmes, affordable access to energy and security in access to raw materials.

3. Smart industry and innovation

Support for innovation is the growth engine of our industry. Horizon 2020, especially through its industrial leadership policy, will provide the necessary support for research and innovation. Among the initiatives that have already been launched, Key Enabling Technologies (KETs) and green technologies will be amongst the key drivers of innovation and industrial competitiveness over the coming years.

4. A business-friendly regulatory framework

To ensure the competitiveness of our businesses we need to reduce the administrative burden and make the economic environment more conducive to business. In this context, the Commission will continue improving the quality of legislation and the regulatory

environment, as announced in the REFIT programme. Moreover, I am firmly committed to helping small and medium-sized businesses thrive: they are the backbone of the EU economy, and are responsible for the creation of 85% of all new jobs in Europe.

In addition to the 4 strategies, a significant element of the Roadmap will be integrating competitiveness concerns into all our policies (mainstreaming). To achieve this goal we will need to improve the mechanisms for coordinating decision-making on industrial policy at EU, national and regional level.