



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 30.11.2021  
C(2021) 8823 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Communication “Updating the 2020 new industrial strategy” {COM(2021) 350 final}.*

*By updating the industrial strategy, the Commission delivered on the priorities set out in its 2021 Work Programme. It reaffirms the principles, priorities and actions of the 2020 New EU industrial strategy. At the same time, the update draws three main lessons from the pandemic: the essential need to (i) uphold the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital in the EU, even in emergency situations; (ii) address strategic dependencies to strengthen the EU’s resilience; (iii) accelerate the green and digital transitions.*

*The Commission welcomes Camera Deputaților’s broad support of the update and shares the views that actions in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises must be implemented urgently. The Commission is pleased that Camera Deputaților acknowledges the importance of modernising formal and non-formal education and training for present and future employees and entrepreneurs. Such modernisation efforts must also relate to the treatment and interpretation of data, as reflected notably in the European Skills Agenda.*

*The Commission would like to point out that the update includes a periodic review of the EU’s strategic dependencies. This review will deal with both current and likely future dependencies. It will be complemented by the EU Observatory of Critical Technologies.*

*The competitiveness of our enterprises makes trade aspects an integral part of the EU industrial policy. Economic diplomacy continues to be a mainstay approach. Free trade agreements help raise the market access for EU enterprises, notably small and medium-sized enterprises, but also promote the rights of workers such as those internationally agreed in the context of the International Labour Organisation of the United Nations. The Commission facilitates the access of small and medium-sized*

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU  
President of the Camera Deputaților  
Palace of the Parliament  
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5  
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

*enterprises to information about markets through, e.g., the Enterprise Europe Network or the network of European Business Organisations.*

*Innovation being a cornerstone of the EU industrial strategy, the Horizon Europe framework programme for research and innovation pays particular attention to the energy domain. The European Innovation Council targets specifically start-ups with disruptive potential.*

*The pandemic has shown the benefits of digitalising the health system. The Commission will continue to work with EU Member States and stakeholders to advance telemedicine under the EU health policy. However, it doubts that telemedicine as such could alleviate ethical questions and that the interpretation of health records should be shifted from doctors to citizens.*

*The Commission appreciates the encouragement to extend the digital service platforms. The Digital Europe programme could be the means to broaden and deepen such services, informed by the pilot projects that have started this year, to the benefit of policies for urban and rural communities.*

*The green and digital transitions of EU industry have implications for EU citizens, too. The update to the industrial strategy proposes to co-create, in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, transition pathways for ecosystems, where needed. The Commission conducts therefore public consultations on the pathway scenarios, as it has already happened for the industrial ecosystems of tourism and of energy-intensive industries.*

*The Commission agrees with Camera Deputaților that the EU industrial policy should remain subject to regular exchanges with Member States. The High-Level Group of the Competitiveness Council is indeed a valued partner for this purpose.*

*The Commission takes seriously the concerns expressed by Camera Deputaților as regards the participation of Romania in Horizon 2020, the framework programme for research and innovation. The new Horizon Europe includes a new type of action that seeks to widen participation to spread excellence, helping to address Camera Deputaților's concerns.*

*The Commission hopes that the clarifications provided in this reply address the issues raised by Camera Deputaților and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Thierry Breton  
Member of the Commission*