

Why Europe & industry need an ambitious plan

In view of the elections to the European Parliament in May 2019, the European Tech & Industry Employers want to stimulate a discussion on how to make the EU future-proof while recalling that its success is closely linked to an internationally competitive industry.

Ceemet believes in a strong EU which can only unlock its full potential if it, jointly with all Member States, focuses and acts on the big challenges, such as digitalisation, globalisation, resource efficiency, climate and demographic change and migration. It can only successfully face these challenges if it takes a new approach on the way it regulates and implements agreed policies.

The **Ceemet 10 Point Plan** lays the groundwork for a facts-based discussion offering ideas from our sector for turning today's and tomorrow's challenges into opportunities.

Who is Ceemet?

- Ceemet represents the **Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industries (MET)** employers in Europe. It covers sectors such as metal goods, mechanical engineering, electronics, ICT, vehicle and transport manufacturing.
- Our member organisations represent **200,000 companies** in Europe, providing over **17 million direct and 35 million indirect jobs**.
- Ceemet is a **recognised European social partner** at industrial sector level. Our vocation is promoting global competitiveness for European industries through consultation and social dialogue.




Did you know that

 **1,25 Million**
2013 2017

new and qualitative jobs have been created between 2013 and 2017 by the European tech and industry sector. With the right-skilled people this figure could increase the coming years.

 **€ 90 Billion**

is the all-time high the European tech and industry is investing in innovation to find sustainable solutions e.g. digitalisation and the world of work.

 **10%**
is the average of what wages exceed in the tech & industry sector compared to similar sectors. A social Europe is built upon competitive wages.

39%
is the export outside the EU, underlining the importance of the EU as a trading block.



10 Point Plan for a competitive industry sustaining social Europe

The contribution of the European Tech & Industry Employers for the 9th legislature of the European Parliament

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POINT 1

Debate on the Future of Europe

The *raison d'être* of the notions 'peace & unity' have lost traction with Europe's citizens. This central chapter of Europe's success story is not clear to younger generations. Likewise, the EU's contribution to prosperity for Europeans is consequently being overlooked. Recent trends of nationalism and protectionism bear witness to this.

➤ A thorough reset is needed for a realistic and open debate on sustainable prosperity. The future of Europe's wealth depends on a successful transition to a digitalised industry and a digitally confident society. If the EU wants to succeed, much of the debate and actions must focus on creating a seamless European (Digital) Single Market.



POINT 3

International competitiveness

EU policy-makers do not pay adequate attention to the international competitiveness of Europe as a place to do business before launching additional regulation.

➤ Clear statements on the importance of the international competitiveness of the industry are a good start. Now policy-makers must act as promised in the 2017 Rome Declaration.

POINT 2

Better regulation

Regulation is often driven by political interests. It should be needs driven, coherent, cost-efficient and stable to increase competitiveness. Relevance, efficiency and adherence to the 'subsidiarity & proportionality' principles must be considered before introducing new legislation.

➤ EU level regulation should be founded on 'subsidiarity & proportionality'. It must be needs based, applicable and enforceable. If not intended to fix a problem, not based on comprehensive and objective impact assessments and not enforceable, there should be no legislation.



POINT 5

Skills skills skills

The 1/2 life of knowledge is reducing due to shorter innovation cycles. Continuous training gains importance as the current skills gap is a cause for reduced competitiveness of tech & industry companies.

➤ Consider Vocational, Education & Training as 1st class learning.
➤ Reducing the waste of talent also requires digitally competent teachers.

➤ Introduce digital learning from an early age.
➤ Invest in digital, entrepreneurial and soft skills.



POINT 4

Digital industrial era

Infrastructure and regulation for going digital in Europe has not kept pace with technological progress.

➤ Digitalisation requires a comprehensive overhaul of the business and investment environment on EU and national level.

➤ This includes increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of diverse EU and national policies and initiatives to accelerate the uptake of digital opportunities of companies.

POINT 6

Agile labour markets

Labour markets are an integral part of the right regulatory framework for digitalisation. Digitally savvy legislators are key to a successful up-take.

➤ Prepare the ground to shape digitalisation by promoting national reforms for agile labour markets.

➤ Leave room for innovation and experimentation with new types of work and new concepts of work organisation.

➤ Note that rigid employment protection tends to have a negative impact on job creation and the uptake of digitalisation in industry.

POINT 7

Social partners make the difference

The Commission's 2015 re-launch of EU social dialogue did not get the basics right as it ignored social partner mandates, responsibility and autonomy.

Interference from "Brussels" into core national and company level -social partners- issues, such as wages and wage



setting, conflicts with social partner autonomy.

➤ European (sectoral) social dialogue aims at promoting competitiveness, sustainable employment and high-quality work. Representative and mandated social partners must thus be consulted in good time on any relevant Commission proposal.

POINT 8

Investment in tech & industry

The required funding levels for digitalisation are not being met in many Member States. In addition, inefficient structures of EU co-funding hinder the digital roll-out.

➤ Digital progress requires the set up of a single coordinated digitalisation investment programme together

with a fully operational 'one-stop-shop' for European funding.

➤ The Commission proposal for the 2021 – 2027 EU budget contains good ideas which support the digital transition of industry. Member States and the European Parliament should agree on these swiftly.

POINT 9

Global trade & Brexit

The EU is not yet playing the role it should play, while powerful partners and

competitors such as the US and China are forcefully representing their interests.

➤ Free and fair trade is a source of wealth in the EU. This requires the EU speaking with one voice and overcome purely national and sometimes even regional interests.

➤ A no-deal Brexit is not option. We must maintain free and frictionless trade with one of our key trading partners, the UK.



POINT 10

Consult industry

Policy-makers must understand the needs and challenges which digital transformation brings to tech & industry. Ceemet and its membership can provide those insights.

➤ Consultation with industry should become a natural

reflex of politicians at EU and national level and should serve the purpose of finding solutions for problems of the real economy and its companies. This is how to get fit for global competition and can provide quality jobs, financing social Europe.

