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Brussels, 14 March 2015

RESOLUTION

Approved at the 44th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee
in Fredrikstad, Norway, on 17 March 2015
(Pursuant to Rules 11 of the Rules of Procedure)

Adopted by written procedure

Industrial Policy in Europe

Co-rapporteurs:

Member of the European Parliament, Paul Rübiger (EPP, Austria)

Member of the Norwegian Parliament, Gunnar Gundersen (Conservative Party)

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA JPC):

- A. Having regard to the European Commission Communications on industrial policy for the globalisation era (2010), on a stronger European industry for growth and economic recovery (2012) and on a European industrial renaissance (2014);
- B. Having regard to the European Commission Work Programme for 2015 and the Political Guidelines for the European Commission 2014-2019;
- C. Bearing in mind that the European Union shares competence in the area of industrial policy with its Member States;
- D. Underlining that initiatives taken in the area of industrial policy at EU level affect several sectors and also impact the EEA EFTA States as full members of the Internal Market;
 - 1. Welcomes the focus of the new European Commission on exploiting the potential for growth in the Internal Market by simplifying EU law and minimising the administrative burden for business in Europe;
 - 2. Underlines that the green transition in the circular and other industries represents opportunities for better productivity and low carbon development;
 - 3. Urges the European Commission to realize its intention to replace its current proposal for a circular economy with a new and more ambitious proposal as soon as possible and supports the broader approach indicated by the Commission so far including better product design and facilitating the development of a market for recycled products and raw materials;

4. Supports the approach of seeing industrial policy initiatives in greater connection with other sectors in order to strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's industry;
5. Underlines, however, that this trend could pose challenges for the EEA since the consideration of what is and is not included in the EEA Agreement is based on a clear delineation of the sectors covered;
6. Calls upon the EU Member States and the EEA EFTA States to step up the implementation of Internal Market legislation and initiatives in order to ensure legal predictability for industry in Europe;
7. Urges the EU to maintain close contact with the EEA EFTA States' governments and parliaments when developing new policies that will be important for the EEA EFTA States in this regard, particularly in cooperation on market access and better regulation, on energy, the environment and climate, and on research and innovation and underlines that when developing these new policies, the overarching goal of such measures needs to be the improvement of the industrial competitiveness inside the EU and the EEA compared to other competing regions in the world.
8. Notes the possibility for participation of third parties in the Commission's proposal for a European investment plan (EFSI).
9. Intends to monitor further developments in the industrial sector, especially those issues relevant to the EEA.