

## **Informal videoconference of Ministers of Industry and Internal Market on the Roadmap for Recovery**

**15 May 2020**

### **Presidency summary**

The videoconference was organised by the Croatian Presidency on 15 May 2020 as an opportunity for EU Industry and Internal Market ministers, together with the Executive Vice-President Ms Margrethe Vestager and Commissioner for Internal Market Mr Thierry Breton to meet virtually and discuss on the Roadmap for Recovery.

Croatian Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Mr Darko Horvat chaired the videoconference.

The main objective of the videoconference was to provide input from the ministers responsible of Industry and Internal Market in the debates on the Recovery Plan in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The ministers recalled that solidarity and cooperation between Member States should be at the heart of EU policies to overcome the current crisis and invited the Commission to present an ambitious recovery plan to put the EU economy back on the path of long-term sustainable growth. The economic impact of the COVID 19 crisis has been largely symmetric across Member States, it is important to avoid asymmetric recovery.

Ministers highlighted strengthening and deepening the Single Market in all its dimensions is a precondition for industrial competitiveness. Restoring of the Single Market will be one of the criteria for the success of the European economic recovery.

Ministers stressed the importance of the green transition and the digital transformation in the centre of all EU recovery plans.

Ministers called on the Commission to follow up on the "March 2020 package" and to propose, where appropriate, further measures to deepen the single market and adapt the existing industrial policy framework according to identified needs and in light of present circumstances.

Many Ministers stressed importance of strengthening of EU's industrial and strategic autonomy and reducing dependency in essential goods and key technologies, while some ministers also highlighted that our effort must not dismantle global value chains, which are also important for recovery.

Ministers invited the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to draw an in-depth analyses of the needs of industrial ecosystems and value chains in order to strengthen them. Some Ministers stressed the importance of Important Projects of

Common European Interest as one of the relevant tools for supporting strategic value chains at EU level.

Ministers agreed the European industry will need significant investments to recover and now it is more important than ever to support industry under the next MFF (Multiannual Financial Framework).

Ministers highlighted the primary focus of the Recovery fund should be the green transition, digital transformation, while strengthening innovation, skills; and also supporting the sectors most affected by the crisis with particular emphasis on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Ministers underlined the importance of the Competitiveness Council's role in coordinating and monitoring the Industry and Single Market dimensions of the EU's recovery efforts.