

Towards a resilient and sustainable recovery after the pandemic

November 2020 - March 2021

Launch: Tuesday 17 November 2020, 10.00-13.00 (CEST)

On 10 March 2020, just as lockdown was being announced in most European countries, the European Commission launched a **New Industrial Strategy for Europe**, highlighting its overarching ambitions for the transition towards climate neutrality and digital leadership.

These twin transitions – green and digital – cut across most EU policies. They are thought to be essential to Europe’s competitive sustainability, its open strategic autonomy based on its economic and technological sovereignty, and its resilience to external shocks. In this regard, the New Industrial Strategy is framed around 14 different ecosystems which represent around 90% of the business value added in the EU. The so-called marguerite (daisy) below is the formation that conveys the concept of this strategy.

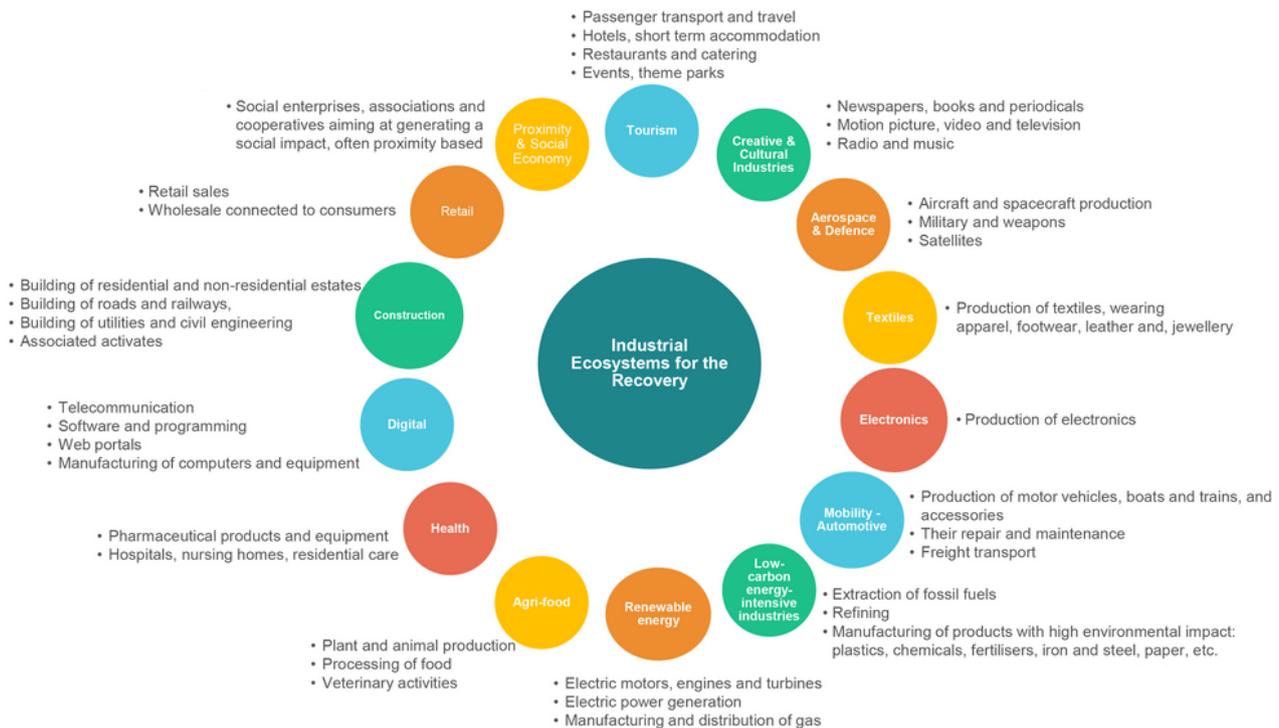


Figure 1 – Industrial ecosystems in Europe (European Commission 2020).

Only six months down the road, however, and the New Industrial Strategy is facing unprecedented challenges, possibly warranting a thorough reconsideration. The Covid-19 pandemic, the ensuing economic crisis and deteriorating multilateral order call for fresh priorities in terms of strategic autonomy and industrial transformation. The adoption of the resilience and recovery plan, **Next Generation EU**, is an important step in this direction, and its successful implementation is both a once-in-a-generation opportunity and an important test for the cohesion of the Union.

Against this backdrop, the New Industrial Strategy may have to refocus and adjust to enable the EU27 to overcome the current crisis in a way that protects the economy, society and the environment. It will also need to achieve higher levels of preparedness for future shocks and gradually transform the economy for greater competitive sustainability in the decades to come. This **'protect-prepare-transform' paradigm**, embodied in the Green Deal and highly valued by the European Commission, must now be mainstreamed into all aspects of EU policymaking, starting with the New Industrial Policy.

A protect-prepare-transform approach aimed at achieving resilience and sustainability

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, we at CEPS have reflected critically on our role and our responsibility in this delicate transition. As one of the biggest EU think tanks working across at least 20 different policy areas, we are uniquely placed to convene policymakers, industry experts, civil society and academics to discuss the priorities of the EU's industrial strategy with a multi-disciplinary, cross-sectoral approach. We can also support the EU institutions in relaunching Europe's economy by proposing concrete ideas and policy recommendations.

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The Task Force will be officially launched with a keynote speech by EU Commissioner for the Internal Market, **Thierry Breton**, and Chairman of the CEPS Board, **Joaquín Almunia**. This will be followed by a high-level panel discussion.

A more detailed description of the structure and ambition of the Task Force will also be presented at this event. We are inviting policymakers, political figures, business leaders, civil society representatives and academics to offer their views on what the Task Force could, and should, achieve between now and March 2021. This will also be the moment to finalise the list of participants and sponsors of the different Working Groups.

After the launch event, we will convene a number of parallel Working Groups, each dedicated to a different topic, and each structured around three online meetings, to be held between December 2020 and February 2021. All Working Groups will reconvene in a plenary session in March 2021, to take stock of the results of each stream of debate and develop a consolidated version of our policy recommendations.



TASK FORCE WORKING GROUPS PRELIMINARY LIST OF TOPICS

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

- Low-carbon markets in the EU and beyond
- Testing the tools with carbon-intensive EU industries
- The European Bauhaus Concept and the construction value chain

DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DATA

- Speeding up the rollout of 5G in Europe: what are the options?
- Artificial Intelligence and industrial transformation
- The Digital Services Act and the future of platform regulation
- The edge/cloud layer, data spaces and the future of GAIA-X: anatomy of Single Market 2.0

STRATEGIC VALUE CHAINS

- Value creation and distribution: towards fairer, more resilient and sustainable value chains
- Strategic autonomy: what is missing for Europe's ambition?
- The token economy: easing financial transactions across value chains

PHARMACEUTICALS AND HEALTHCARE

- Access to affordable medicines: Drug prices, Big Pharma and EU purchasing programmes
- Research & Innovation in early development and authorisation
- The need for comprehensive prevention programmes
- Ways to reduce demand for medicines
- Ways to reduce costs and increase supplies of medicines

COMPETITION POLICY AND STATE AIDS

- The New Competition Tool: what for?
- State Aids after COVID-19
- Mergers and Acquisitions as an industrial policy tool
- Reorienting competition law towards sustainability

A RENEWED TRADE POLICY: OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY, SUSTAINABILITY AND FAIRNESS

- Trade and Sustainability: EU's BTAs, Carbon Border Adjustment mechanism, and International standards
- EU's trade relationship: Transatlantic, Brexit, Africa and China
- A level playing field in the single market: the White Paper on Foreign subsidies and FDI Screening
- The Reform of the WTO: Sustainability, Industrial subsidies, and Dispute settlement

SKILLS & JOBS

- New types of jobs: where, when and how?
- New skills: Which ones, for whom and by whom
- Workplace innovation to cope with change

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD: FROM FARM TO FORK

- Reforming the CAP to enhance sustainability
- The future of EU food policy: shorter and more sustainable value chains?
- Digitising Agrifood