



# CEPS Forum on the Future of European Industry

[New edition 2.0: January – July 2023](#)

Almost three years ago, the European Commission launched a comprehensive and aspirational **New Industrial Strategy for Europe** that highlighted its overarching ambitions for the ‘**twin transition**’, a journey towards climate neutrality and digital transformation. The twin transition cuts across all EU policies and is essential for promoting Europe’s competitive sustainability and resilience, as well as supporting the Commission’s ‘geopolitical’ ambitions by boosting the EU’s open strategic autonomy.

The EU’s New Industrial Strategy for Europe has been, however, greatly challenged by the different crises that have unfolded over the past few years – the Covid-19 crisis since 2020 and, more recently, the war in Ukraine and the energy crisis, as well as the ensuing economic downturn. The latter crises have also resulted in some paradoxical trends, including reshoring objectives in some sectors and delocalisation in others. These **challenging economic and political times** have thus prompted the EU to refocus and adjust its strategy. Overall, the two fundamental green and digital pillars of the EU’s industrial strategy are still to be achieved and their importance has been even further stressed.

**Ensuring a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic and post-war recovery** requires concrete action on both the domestic and external fronts.

**On the domestic front**, key initiatives concern the sustainable approach to the EU’s digital and data economy based on rules, standardisation, their effective implementation and strong infrastructure; the realisation of the ‘energy trilemma’, i.e. security, affordability and sustainability, to establish long-term solutions to the energy crisis; the systemic adjustment of some strategic industry supply chains; and the implementation of the Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF) to pave the way for a coordinated transformation of the European economy.

**On the external front**, the EU institutions are being called upon to advance their overarching ambition of ‘open strategic autonomy’ through the careful and comprehensive review and mapping of the EU’s strategic dependencies, especially in key technologies and the raw materials necessary for the twin transitions; EU trade policy’s openness and its re-orientation towards

enhanced sustainability, resilience and assertiveness; as well as a more robust, inclusive, innovative, sustainable and scalable European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) to bolster the EU's role as a security and defence actor.

To support the European institutions in their quest for a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic and post-war recovery, the **CEPS Forum on the Future of European Industry** will be starting a new edition as from **January 2023**. Building on already strong findings from previous endeavours ([CEPS Task Force](#), [CEPS Forum 1.0](#)), the Forum will contribute **further concrete ideas and policy recommendations** that aim to help Europe overcome these challenging political and economic times and redefine – and possibly reinvent – both Europe and globalisation.

In line with previous editions, the Forum adopts the same multi-stakeholder spirit and is **open to all stakeholders**, including institutions, businesses, academics, and representatives of civil society. The CEPS Forum also adopts a similar multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach. It is composed of **four parallel Working Groups** dedicated to important transversal topics relating to the EU's industrial strategy:

- **Making the digital transition work for everyone**
- **Strengthening the EU's green transition**
- **Strategic autonomy and the resilience of value chains**
- **National resilience and recovery plans and the evolving industrial policy\***

Each of these Working Groups is structured around **two to three closed-door (hybrid or in-person) meetings to be held during each semester of the year**. They will contribute policy briefs or Working Group reports, distilled from the Working Group's contributions and discussions, desktop research and interviews. A plenary session with all Working Groups may be convened at the end of each semester to take stock of the results of each stream of debate and to develop a consolidated list of policy recommendations.

**One-off events** will also be organised as part of the Forum. This new edition will notably cover a series of events on the '**trade for peace**' and the '**women and trade**' streams.

CEPS Forum Members may also take part in the meetings that are being organised as part of the forthcoming **CEPS EU Defence Task Force**.

Please find below the preliminary list of topics for the different Working Groups and event series.

Further details on what the Working Groups and the one-off events will cover for this upcoming semester will be included in the forthcoming **prospectus that will be released later in December 2022**.

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\* The Working Group on the National resilience and recovery plans is part of the broader [CEPS RRF Monitor project](#)

## **CEPS FORUM PRELIMINARY LIST OF TOPICS (January – July 2023)**



### **MAKING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION WORK FOR EVERYONE**

- Towards the effective implementation of rules governing the data economy: challenges along the value chain
- Enhancing digital infrastructures and unlocking investments for connectivity
- Between competition and cooperation: Ensuring European and international standardisation remain enablers for the EU's digital transition



### **STRENGTHENING THE EU'S GREEN TRANSITION**

- Accelerating low-carbon technology deployment
- Industrial decarbonisation and the EU's internal market rules



### **STRATEGIC AUTONOMY AND THE RESILIENCE OF VALUE CHAINS**

- How exposed are European industries to supply chain disruptions?
- How can semiconductor supply chain shortages be reduced?
- Did international transport and logistics amplify supply chain issues?



### **NATIONAL RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PLANS AND THE INDUSTRIAL POLICY**

- The lack of a coherent EU industrial dimension in Next Generation EU
- Is there coherence and additionality in the green investment approaches of the RRF plans?



### **ONE-OFF EVENTS**

- EU trade policy in geopolitical times: Squaring the circle?
- WTO plurilaterals and 'friend-shoring': What do they mean for EU and international trade?
- Women's voices on the creative transformation of EU and international trade policies in support of economic stability, peace and humanity



### **CEPS EU DEFENCE TASK FORCE**

- The forthcoming CEPS EU Defence Task Force will cover topics relating to defence industrial investment, innovation and institutions.

# Call for participation and sponsorship



## Organisation and governance

The Dialogue and final research output of the Working Groups and one-off events will be informed by the findings of the independent research conducted by CEPS and other relevant institutions working in the context of EU industrial policy. Each Working Group and one-off event will contribute policy briefs or a Working Group report.

Each Working Group will be run by a chair and a rapporteur. The role of the **chair** is to steer the meetings and moderate the discussions. The **rapporteur** will set the agenda for the meetings, follow up on the discussions, conduct the necessary research and draft the policy briefs and the final report, in close cooperation with the chair.

Participation in the Working Groups and one-off events is limited to members of the Forum, observers and selected invitees. The chair will make sure that all discussions are balanced and evidence-based, making our *modus operandi* and final output truly multi-stakeholder.

The **Forum members** are a group of stakeholders, industry representatives and observers (academics, policymakers, regulators, supervisory authorities, civil society organisations, consumer/investor associations etc.). Their role is to steer the research agenda of their Working Group's meetings, actively participate in the discussions and, together with the chair, review their Working Group's brief(s) or report and comment on the list of recommendations. All participants (except for any special guests) are required to attend (or designate another person) for at least two of the three closed-door meetings. Each role is set out in further detail in the Annex.

## Call for participation

Participation in the Forum is subject to a fee to cover research and organisational expenses.

Participation may be on a semester or yearly basis.

CEPS Corporate Members are entitled to a discounted fee, while non-members (with a commercial interest) will pay the full fee. Discounted fees will be considered for non-members if they subsequently decide to become a member of CEPS. Membership of the Forum or observer rights will be given to certain officials and academics upon invitation.

### The fee covers

- The research carried out by CEPS for the Forum
- Organisational and logistical costs of all meetings and plenaries
- Web access and documentation
- Press release and communications management
- Editing costs of the policy briefs and the final report (online)
- Distribution of the policy brief(s) or the final report to key stakeholders in both industry and policymaking

## Fee structure (+21 % VAT if applicable)



- A Forum member may participate in as many Working Groups and one-off events as s/he wishes.
- Each Forum member can join each meeting with up to three representatives.

<b>CEPS PREMIUM MEMBERS</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Membership to the Forum per semester		Free
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)		5 500
<b>CEPS CORPORATE MEMBERS</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Membership to the Forum per semester		1 500
Membership to the Forum per year		3 000
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)		10 000
<b>CEPS ASSOCIATION MEMBERS</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Membership to the Forum per semester		1 500
Membership to the Forum per year		3 000
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)		10 000
<b>CEPS INSTITUTIONAL PREMIUM MEMBERS</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Membership to the Forum per semester		1 000
Membership to the Forum per year		2 000
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)		2 500
<b>CEPS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS</b>		<b>EUR</b>
Membership to the Forum per semester		1 000
Membership to the Forum per year		2 000
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)		2 500

\*CEPS reserves the right to invite representatives of civil society (NGOs, institutions, universities, etc.) who have a limited budget to contribute to the diversity of the Working Groups.

NON-MEMBERS	EUR
Membership to the Forum per semester	5 000
Membership to the Forum per year	10 000
Sponsorship (per semester for one WG)	
▪ Corporations and industrial associations	15 000
▪ NGOs, institutions, universities and foundations	5 500

## Sponsorship



We are providing the opportunity to sponsor each of the different Working Groups and one-off events. The sponsorship fees will contribute to the overall success of the Forum by ensuring that we promote a balanced discussion and produce carefully considered policy recommendations by inviting a diverse range of members.

A sponsor will have the rights of a Forum member and in addition, will receive the following benefits:

- The Working Group or one-off event will be named ‘in collaboration with [organisation]...’
- The opportunity to help define which topics will be covered in the three meetings
- The opportunity to suggest expert speakers or presenters for the meetings
- The possibility to comment on all policy brief drafts and the full report
- The inclusion of the organisation’s logo on the policy briefs and final report

All suggestions will be considered, but CEPS will have the final say in designing the programme and ensuring the quality of the meetings. CEPS reserves the exclusive right to accept or decline all suggested speakers.

We would be very glad to welcome you on board! For further details, please check the dedicated Forum webpage. To register your interest, please fill in the application form that you can find on the webpage. You can also contact us directly via [cepstaskforces@ceps.eu](mailto:cepstaskforces@ceps.eu).



## Principles and guidelines for the Forum and its Working Groups

This annex offers guidance to members of the Forum and other parties wishing to understand the functioning of the initiative and the drafting process of the final report.

The Forum and its five different Working Groups and one-off events represent structured dialogues among industry representatives, policymakers, academics, civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders. They will discuss core topics relating to the EU's industrial policy in dedicated meetings, i.e. two to three closed-door meetings (hybrid or in-person) for every Working Group each semester, in order to produce policy brief(s) or a final report with policy recommendations.

### Forum participants

CEPS adopts a multi-stakeholder approach. Each Working Group is composed of a chair, a rapporteur(s), a possible sponsor(s), Forum members, including observers.

The chair is an expert appointed by CEPS to steer the dialogue during meetings and to advise on the general conduct of the Working Group's activities.

The rapporteur(s) is a CEPS researcher or associate who organises the Working Group, conducts the research independently and drafts the policy briefs and the final report, in close cooperation with the chair.

The Forum members are any individuals, such as academics, policymakers, regulators, representatives of supervisory authorities, company representatives, representatives of trade associations/consumer interest groups/investors' associations, who participate in the activities of the Forum in a personal capacity. They must have expertise in the topics discussed and provide input to the discussions through presentations and relevant material for the policy briefs and the final report.

The members will:

- Steer the research agenda of their Working Groups' meetings and the content of the active discussions;
- Contribute to meetings with active input, including targeted presentations;
- Support the research and comment on the various drafts of their Working Groups' reports, including the possibility to produce written contributions (subject to approval and editing);
- Ensure that the research behind the report adheres to the highest standards;
- Have access to all the documents and presentations made during the meetings;
- Contribute to the recommendations that will be discussed and added to the policy brief(s) or final report.

The observers to the Forum form a group of policymakers, academics, representatives of associations and independent experts, who may attend Forum meetings in an observer capacity, so they will not be required to provide a contribution (unless agreed otherwise). This group will

also include speakers invited by CEPS to provide individual contributions to one or more meetings.

The list of Forum members and observers will be featured in the policy brief(s) or the final report and on the CEPS website.

All Forum members will attend the meetings in a personal capacity and will not have to necessarily endorse the recommendations of the policy brief(s) or the final report.

### **Objectives of the policy brief(s) or final report**

In addition to contributing to the policy debate by presenting a balanced set of arguments, the policy brief(s) or final report seek to provide readers with a constructive basis for discussion. The rapporteur(s) will not seek to advance a single position or misrepresent the complexity of any subject matter. The policy brief(s) or the final report also fulfils an educational purpose, and it is therefore drafted in a manner that is easy to understand, is accessible, and with technical jargon fully defined and explained where necessary.

### **Drafting the main text of the policy brief(s) or final report**

In the main text, the rapporteur(s) details the results of the research carried out independently in the framework of the Forum. The policy brief(s) or the final report will refer to the discussions during the meetings but also to available data and literature. Scientific literature may be cited. Forum members are not expected to endorse any reference to this literature. A general disclaimer will be inserted to clarify this. Finally, the conclusions will be clearly presented.

### **Use of data**

The policy brief or the final report features data that are considered both relevant and accurate by the rapporteur(s). The Forum members are encouraged to contribute with any data or propose any source of data that the rapporteur(s) considers as relevant. They may also question either the relevance or accuracy of any given data. After consultation with the chair, the rapporteur(s) may decide either to exclude this data or to mention these concerns in the main body of the text.

### **Drafting the conclusion and recommendations**

The policy brief(s) or the final report will feature a set of policy recommendations, drawn up by the rapporteur(s), which are meant to reflect the whole Forum's discussions during the semester. For a recommendation to be featured in the report, enough information needs to have been discussed in the open debates among Forum members. In all cases, the policy brief(s) or the report will seek to identify the points where there is some form of common understanding of the issues discussed.

Both policy recommendations and the content of the policy brief(s) or the final report will be summarised at the beginning of each document in the form of an 'executive summary'.

Forum members will be given the opportunity to review their Working Group's contribution to the policy brief(s) or the final report and provide their input on each draft version. Nevertheless, the rapporteur(s) will be solely responsible for the content of the policy briefs and the final report.