



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Message of Commission EVP Séjourné to industrial workers in Europe on the occasion of the action day on 5 February

Europe has been losing 27 000 manufacturing jobs per month over the last two years. These are your jobs and our shared prosperity.

These factory closures and job losses have harsh economic and social impacts for families and territories. They also jeopardise our economic future and sovereignty.

Because in today's brutal world Europe can only defend a values and social right-based model from a position of strength and independence.

To regain this strength, we must deliver on completion of the Single Market and acceleration of our Industrial Policy.

In an unlevel playing field, where our strategic dependencies are too high and are weaponised, we must promote and protect our strategic sectors - clean, digital and bio technologies, as well as energy intensives, and defence. There is no other choice.

This is why we will propose that whenever European public money is used in our strategic sectors, it must primarily contribute to European production and quality jobs. This principle will be included in the horizontal revision of Public Procurement rules. And it will be defined in sectoral initiatives, including, but not limited to, the Industrial Accelerator Act.

Likewise, we will condition foreign direct investments in strategic sectors to ensure that they create added value in Europe, in terms of technology transfer, and of course in terms of quality jobs in Europe.

I recognize the high price that European workers are paying for the current situation. Made in Europe is a key pillar of ensuring our social values are upheld – promoting quality jobs which demands strong social dialogue, collective bargaining and workers' rights.

I strongly value your fight because your focus is on the long-term sustainability of European industry. You know there are challenges and that transformation is needed. It is our responsibility, as policymakers, to shape the right business environment in dialogue with the social partners, listening, and keeping everyone on board. I therefore subscribe to your 6 demands and pledge to defend them within the College, towards co-legislators, and also employers.

I wish you a successful action day and us all continued cooperation for the future of European industry with quality jobs at its core.