



Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

I am pleased to send you the summary of the results we accomplished together in 2012, with the goal of renewing an initiative that, starting four years ago, has become a commitment and set appointment. Attached you will find the full and detailed list of our achievements to support growth, and small and middle enterprises.

The goal of this review is not only to offer a chance for a joint evaluation of what we have done, but also to provide you with a practical instrument to support your communication with the citizens and on the territory.

Economic governance and financial sector reforms did not exhaust our commitment which, as we all know, needs to be completed with a more profound and resolute action **to promote investments and growth**.

The Commission, the Parliament and the Council must act, jointly and supporting each other, to overcome any form of antagonism that could negatively affect our current real priority, which is employment.

With **over 26 million of unemployed people**, Europe's response cannot be limited to austerity measures that – while necessary – need to be accompanied by **policies to support the re-launch of growth and innovation**. As I mentioned several times, we cannot ask European citizens and enterprises to endure more sacrifices without providing them, at the same time, with more confidence for the future.

In order to sustain competitiveness and employment, industry, and small and middle enterprises require a favourable environment. If Europe does not restart being an "attractive" place for industry, our industrial know-how will be lost elsewhere, along with millions of jobs.

Based on these beliefs, with our **new industrial policy** adopted last October, the Commission reaffirmed the centrality of the European industrial patrimony, setting the **goal of 20%** of GDP coming from the manufacturing sector by 2020.

Last year saw, at last, the emergence of **critical situations in strategic industrial sectors** for European competitiveness, such as the automotive, steel and shipbuilding industry. For this reason, I promoted High Level Roundtables to bring together industry, trade unions and Member States. Some of these dialogues have already started to produce important results – for example the approval of the '**CARS 2020**' plan – while others will bring concrete results over the course of 2013, with the adoption of **specific plans for the steel and shipbuilding industry**.

A common element in these initiatives is the centrality of research and innovation activities focused on competitiveness and growth of different industrial sectors.

In this context, in the next few weeks the key passage of the approval of the **new budget 2014-2020** represents the main instrument to promote growth. With the allocation of EUR 80 billion for **industrial research and innovation** and, thanks to the creation of '**COSME**' – the new program that doubles funds for SMEs – the commission has given a clear political signal to support access to credit and the real economy.

As the end of my mandate is approaching, 2013 represent a decisive year for me to achieve the last commitments I anticipated during my hearing in front of the Parliament. Based on the previous annual summaries, I can claim that most of these commitments and goals became reality.

In the next few months I plan to concentrate my efforts on four main projects:

1) **Implementation of the European Industrial Policy**, focusing on access to credit, a regulation and trade policy more closely connected to competitiveness with the adoption of competitiveness proofing tests, fitness checks and analyses of the combined effects of legislation and commercial agreements on the enterprises and, lastly, more attention to transparency of foreign investments in the EU.

2) **Strengthening the Internal Market**, with the adoption in the coming weeks of a new **Package for Market Surveillance and Products Safety** and, after the summer, of a new **Regulation for the Circulation of Industrial Products**.

3) **Provision of the First Services of the Galileo Space System**, starting from the end of 2014. The first completely European infrastructure has now entered its operative stage and, consequently, it will **contribute to the acceleration of the new industrial revolution** in many key sectors for our economy.

4) **Reinforcing the Competitiveness of Europe's Defence Industry**, thanks to the adoption in the forthcoming months of a **dedicated Communication** to promote concrete valued-adding initiatives for this strategic sector, integrating in a single package European instruments and policies. This initiative will constitute, furthermore, a central contribution to the **European Defence Council** that will take place in December.

Lastly, **internationalization** remains one of the cornerstones of my action. I am referring, in particular, to the **'Missions for Growth'** that have become a recognized and consolidated model, aimed at favouring new concrete business opportunities for European enterprises in third countries. In this context, I will continue to put my efforts into **facilitating the release of Touristic Visas** to promote a higher influx of foreign visitors to Europe.

All of our challenges and commitments – summarized in this letter and in the attached document – require an even stronger collaboration from all of you.

For this reason, I am always willing to listen to your suggestions, reflections and proposals, wishing you all the best for a productive 2013.



Antonio Tajani

Vice-President of the European Commission



Enterprise and Industry

Vice-President Antonio Tajani 2012 ACHIEVEMENTS

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I. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

1. INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

10.10.2012: Industrial Policy Communication Update " **A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery**", COM(2012)582

Immediate action should contribute to reverse the current downward trend from its current level of 15.6% of EU GDP to as much as **20% of EU GDP by 2020**.

Vice-President Tajani: *"We cannot continue to let our industry leave Europe. Our figures are crystal clear: European industry can deliver growth and can create employment. Today we tabled the conditions for the sustainable industry of the future in Europe, to develop the investments needed in new technologies and to rebuild a climate of confidence and entrepreneurship. By working together and restoring confidence, we can bring back industry to Europe."*



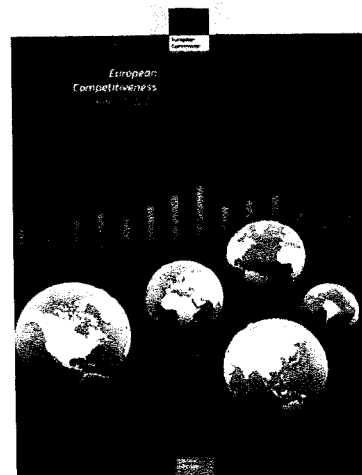
Three accompanying documents:



Progress made in the implementation of the policies announced in 2010, and evidence on the **current situation and performance of the EU industry**, SWD(2012)297;

Industrial Performance Scoreboard and Report on Member States' Competitiveness Performance and Policies, SWD(2012)298. Starting in 2012, a new scoreboard assesses Member States' performance in five key areas: manufacturing productivity; export performance; innovation and sustainability; business environment and infrastructure; and finance and investment;

European Competitiveness Report 2012: Reaping the benefits of globalization, SWD(2012)299. It analyses the main globalisation trends in the last 15 years and the implied costs and benefits and the challenges ahead for EU businesses.



Application of competitiveness proofing has been further mainstreamed in 2012. The following Commission initiatives were adopted based on a more in-depth assessment of their impacts on industry competitiveness:

These cases are available in the public domain:

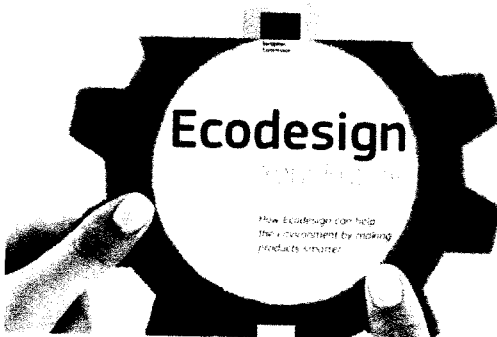
- Posting of workers
- Revision of the Data Protection Regulation
- CO₂ emissions of cars and vans
- Roadmap towards a 2050 low-carbon economy
- Action Plan for the Security Industry

These cases are upcoming (impact assessment stage or in inter-service consultation):

- Amendments to the Toy Safety Directive
- Safety of Nuclear Power Plants
- European Tourism Label for Quality Systems
- Directive on Package Travel and Holiday Tours
- Review of the Fertilisers Regulation
- General Product Safety Directive
- Unique identifier for medicines intended for human use
- Review of Personal Protective Equipment Directive
- Strategy for reducing Heavy Duty Vehicles' CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption
- Eco design regulations for: domestic cooking appliances; professional refrigeration equipment

The Commission has attached as well high priority on assessing impacts on sectorial competitiveness in the Impact Assessments preparing the trade negotiations with Japan and the US.

Ecodesign



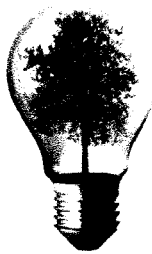
07.12.2012: **Ecodesign Working Plan for the period 2012-2014**, SWD(2012)434.

The Ecodesign Directive foresees that the Commission prepares a three year rolling working plan to prioritise product groups in order to explore potential ecodesign and/or energy labelling requirements through dedicated studies. This new working plan is the first one to include energy-related products (windows, thermal insulation products, power cables) and also includes water-related products.

17.12.2012: **Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Review of Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products (recast) 2012 Review**

It concluded that no legislative changes were necessary in the Directive, as it is achieving its policy objectives reasonably well. The Report also concluded that it would be premature to enlarge the scope of the Directive, but referred to the forthcoming review of the Energy Labelling Directive in 2014 for a wider assessment of the EU's sustainable product policy.

Specific Action to promote Ecodesign by SMEs manufacturers. A call for proposals (budget: EUR 4.5 million), within the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, to promote Ecodesign among SME manufacturers has been closed on 5.11.2012; activities will start in April 2013. General information will be provided to about 5,000 SMEs, at least 2,500 SMEs will receive eco-design training and eco-design audits, and 200 specific projects to assist them in "eco-designing" a particular product will be carried out. This way, European SMEs will increase their competitiveness by becoming more resource efficient and by focusing on higher added value, innovative products.



Implementation of the **Sustainable Industry Low Carbon (SILC) initiative.** SILC is an EU grant scheme for helping energy intensive manufacturing industries to develop technological and non-technological innovation measures that reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and maintain their competitiveness.

08.03.2012: Publication of the second call for proposals and selection of a further batch of projects. Grants were awarded to two project consortia in December 2012, with EU co-financing amounts of EUR

916 377 and EUR 348 392 respectively.

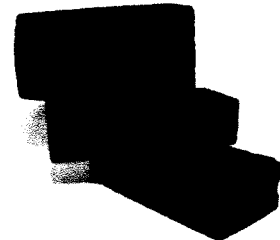
Participation in the **European Resource Efficiency Platform (EREP)** that contributes to shaping the transition towards a more resource efficient, yet competitive and resilient economy as a follow up of the Resource Efficiency Roadmap. The Platform will present short-term recommendations in mid-2013 and medium to long-term recommendations in 2014.

Construction

31.07.2012: Communication "Strategy for the sustainable competitiveness of the construction sector and its enterprises" COM(2012)433.

This action plan addresses the following **5 priority lines**:

1. stimulating favourable investment conditions, in particular in the renovation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructures;
2. improving the human capital basis of the sector;
3. improving resource efficiency, environmental performance and business opportunities;
4. strengthening the Internal Market ;
5. fostering the global competitive position of the EU construction enterprises.



A tripartite (Commission, Member States and interest groupings) High level Forum and Thematic Groups will be created to steer the implementation of the communication's action plan.

Promotion of the adoption of Eurocodes in third countries, notably Russia (dialogue with Russian government; seminar on "Bridge Design with Eurocodes" on 1-2/10/2012).

2. INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION / KETs

The Innovation Union (IU) flagship initiative

Progress with the implementation of the contents of the Innovation Union (IU) flagship initiative by Directorate-General Enterprise & Industry in 2012:

- **E-skills:** Employment Package adopted in April 2012, and Coalition on E-skills and jobs (ENTR, CNECT, EAC & EMPL) actively working on relevant topics to develop and promote the necessary e-skills for innovation and competitiveness.
- **Access to Finance:** Publication of the Final report by the expert group on the matching of innovative firms with suitable investors. The recommendations are under consideration for implementation under COSME and Horizon 2020.
- **Public procurement of Innovation:** Launch of eight projects of cross-border groups of public procurers of innovative solutions with EUR 15 million support financed by CIP-EIP. Publication of the feasibility study "Future EU support to public procurement of innovative solutions" in February 2012. Furthermore, publication of guidance for procurers of innovative solutions in healthcare and sustainable construction. The support for public procurement of innovation will result in additional purchases of innovative solutions in various sectors and thus contributes to a faster market uptake of innovative European goods.
- **Design:** Final recommendations of the European Design Leadership Board received at the European Design Summit on 17.09.2012 with a view of using the potential of design for creation of growth and jobs. Launch of six projects under the European Design Innovation Initiative financed by CIP-EIP measures.
- **IPR Knowledge Markets:** Adoption of the Commission Staff Working Document SEC(2012)458 of 21.12.2012 entitled "Towards enhanced patent valorisation for growth and jobs" presenting an analysis of the major obstacles European companies face in valorising existing patents and outlining possible action to develop knowledge markets for patents.
- **Social Innovation:** Launch of the European Social Innovation Prize Competition on 01.10.2012 calling for innovative ideas to create opportunities for work.
- **European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard (EPSIS):** Preparation of the pilot European Public Sector Innovation Scoreboard that will be published in early 2013 as the first EU-wide attempt to benchmark innovation in the public sector. EPSIS shows that public sector innovation makes it more likely that businesses have a strong innovation performance.
- **Innovation Union Scoreboard:** Presentation of the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2011 on 07.02.2012 by Vice-President Tajani with Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. Innovation Union Scoreboard 2011 shows that the EU is slowly closing the innovation gap to the US and Japan. The Innovation Union Scoreboard 2012 will be presented in February 2013.

Key Enabling Technologies

26.06.2012: Communication "European strategy for Key Enabling Technologies – A bridge to growth and jobs", COM(2012)341

General objectives: To promote the deployment of KETs-based products in EU industries and through them facilitate the renewal and modernisation of the EU's industrial base and contribute to addressing grand societal challenges, such as healthy ageing, employment and competitiveness as well as the transition to a knowledge-based, low carbon and resource-efficient economy.

Specific objectives: Closing the innovation gap in KETs by: Promoting technological research; Promoting product demonstration activities, such as prototypes, pilot lines and demonstration activities.

Commission proposal Horizon 2020 Regulation: (1) to rebalance financial support to applied development research activities (pilot lines and demonstrator projects) in order to cross the "valley of death"; (2) to allocate EUR 6.7 billion in industrial capabilities for KETs.

Commission proposal European Regional Development Fund Regulation: (1) KETs identified as an investment priority for innovation financing; (2) structural funds can be used to finance projects that are much closer to the market, up to first production.

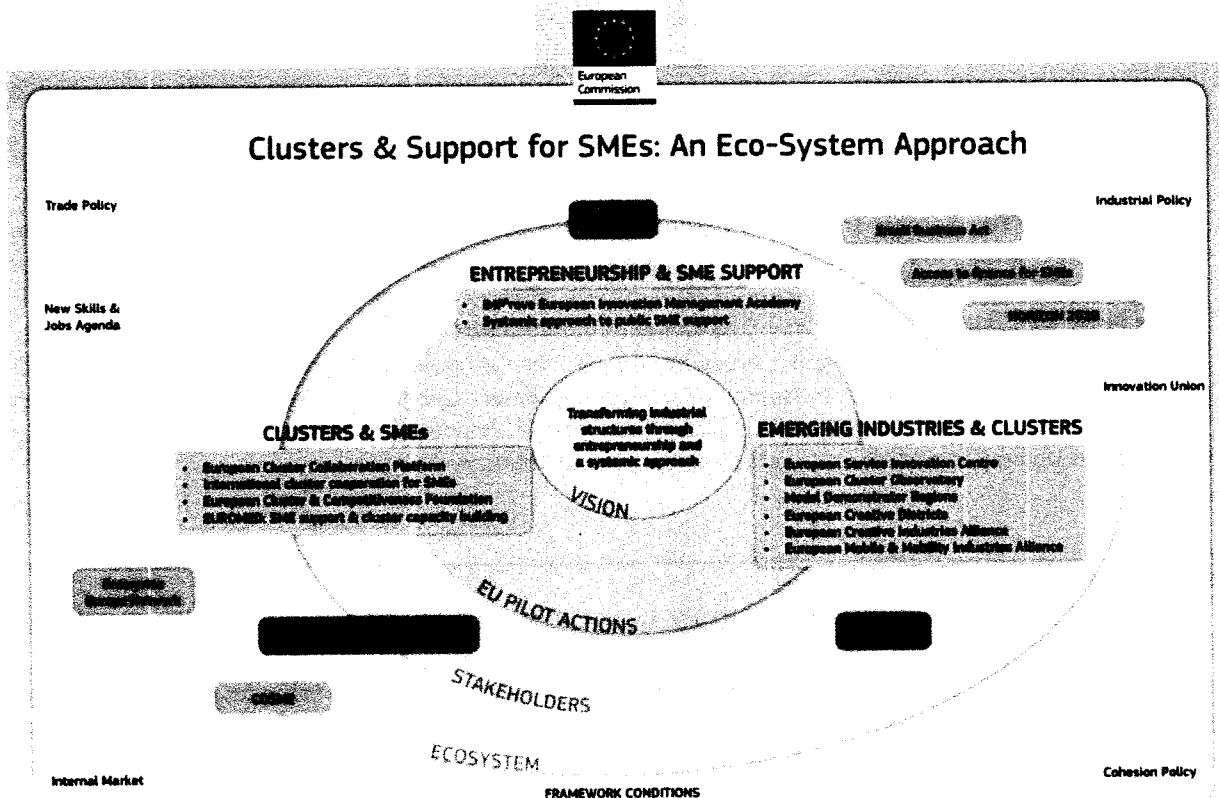
Commission proposal Common provisions Regulation: possible combined financing of KETs projects through Horizon 2020, structural funds and EIB loans will be enabled.

Supporting cluster analysis and cluster excellence at EU level

11.06.2012: Launch of the second phase of the **European Cluster Observatory** on supporting emerging industries through clusters, including the establishment of the European Scoreboard for Clusters in Emerging Industries.

20.04.2012: Launch of the **European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis** to assess cluster performance and certify excellent clusters at EU level. More than 300 cluster organisations have already received the bronze quality label and 10 of them the gold label of excellence.

01.09.2012: Launch of the European Foundation for Cluster Competitiveness to provide trainings to cluster managers. First trainings have been provided to 40 European participants from 11 to 14.12.2012.





Supporting cluster internationalisation for SMEs

01.09.2012: Launch of the second phase of the European Cluster Collaboration Platform to support cluster cooperation within and beyond the EU.

01.09.2012 and 01.11.2012: Launch of 2 additional projects to support European cluster consortia on international activities and explore the new concept of European Strategic Cluster Partnerships.

12-15.11.2012: Organisation of the first EU-Japan Cluster match making event in Tokyo.

27.11.2012: Promotion of international cooperation and cluster excellence with 4 South Mediterranean countries (under the EUROMED Innovative Entrepreneurs for Change initiative), and signature of two MoU between the European Cluster Collaboration Platform, with Tunisian (08.03.2012) and Moroccan (27.11.2012) public partners.

Electronic invoicing

In 2012, the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on e-invoicing (established with Commission Decision C(2010) 8467) continued its activities launched in 2011. Two meetings were held in Brussels in March and September 2012. In 2012, the Forum identified the remaining legal issues which prevent the exchange of e-invoices across border and agreed on good practices and drivers for the uptake of e-invoicing. The Group also collaborated with EUROSTAT to improve the statistical monitoring of e-invoicing and agreed to base interoperability on a reference "core" e-invoice model that should be adopted and standardised at European level.

E-skills



The European e-Skills Week 2012 was launched on 19 March by Vice-President Tajani.

The objectives of the European e-Skills Week 2012 (26 to 30 March) were to promote the EU e-skills strategy and raise awareness of the importance of ICT (information and communication technology) careers. Europe needs a larger talent pool in a context of growing shortages of highly-qualified ICT professionals. The campaign was a success, with a total of over 130 million touch points through a combination of events, training and media activities.

37 countries covered

294 Stakeholders (including 27 Pan-European ones)

more than 1.800.000 participants in 2,335 events

The European e-Skills Week is a multi-stakeholder campaign including educational institutions, public bodies, NGOs, associations and industry working together. Based on the results of an external evaluation, over 80% of respondents agreed that the campaign had a positive impact and two thirds of the young respondents said that their knowledge and understanding of e-skills-related careers had improved and that they may consider pursuing such a career.

3. SMEs AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The implementation of the **Small Business Act (SBA)** pursued in 2012. In particular the governance structure introduced by the SBA Review in order to ensure the implementation of the SBA principles and priorities has been completely set up. It includes the **Network of the national SME Envoy** and the **annual SME Assembly**.

Four meetings of the Network were organised in 2012: 26 January in Cyprus, 28 March in Brussels, 15 June in Malta and 15 November in Cyprus.

15 and 16.11.2012: The first SME Assembly in Cyprus with **European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPA)** given.

Discussions were held in all the priority areas of the SBA Review: access to finance, access to markets, burden reduction (Think Small First principle) and entrepreneurship. The Assembly was co-organised by the Cyprus presidency and the European Commission and brought together representatives of European SMEs, business organizations, national and regional government, academia and the media as well as a large number of national EEPA winners.

The Commission welcomes the efforts of the European Investment Bank to maintain its SME loan activity in 2012 and a EUR 10 billion increase of the EIB's capital. The capital increase approved by the shareholders, enables an additional EUR 60 billion of lending to European enterprises over a period of three years.

09.01.2013: **Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan**, COM(2012)795.

This Action Plan is a blueprint for decisive joint action to unleash Europe's entrepreneurial potential, to remove existing obstacles and to revolutionise the culture of entrepreneurship in Europe. It aims to ease the creation of new businesses and to create a much more supportive environment for existing entrepreneurs to thrive and grow. It proposes three areas for immediate intervention:

1. Entrepreneurial education and training to support growth and business creation.
2. Strengthening framework conditions for entrepreneurs by removing existing structural barriers and supporting them in crucial phases of the business lifecycle,
3. Dynamising the culture of entrepreneurship in Europe: nurturing the new generation of entrepreneurs.

Directive on late payments



03.02.2012: **First Expert Group Meeting** with the objective of helping a quick and smooth transposition of Directive 2011/7/EU into national law.

08.05.2012: Vice-President Tajani sent out a second letter inviting Member States to an early transposition by January 2012 of Directive 2011/7/EU, foreseen by the latest 16 March 2013.

05.10.2012: Launch of the European Commission's Late Payment Campaign with a kick-off event in Rome attended by the Vice-President.

23.10.2012: **Second Expert Group Meeting** with the objective of helping a quick and smooth transposition of Directive 2011/7/EU into national law.

During the final three months of 2012 Late Payment Information Campaign events were held in Cyprus, the Netherlands and Germany.

Four Member States have already transposed Directive 2011/7/EU and notified their national legislation: Cyprus, Italy, Malta and the Netherlands.

During 2012, the PILOT project which aimed to increase awareness about credit management and debt recovery was carried out. The seminars were regionally-based and targeted local businesses.

Access to finance

October 2012: Preparation of the report: **Evaluation of EU Member States' Business Angel Markets and Policies**. The Commission's policy is to identify and spread good practices that can help improve the conditions for business angel investment. The report was carried out researching the characteristics of the business angels market and Member States' best practices as regards policies and programmes supporting business angel financing.

07.12.2012: Agreement on the proposal of the **Regulation on European Venture Capital Funds**, COM(2011)860 reached by the European Parliament and the Council.

The **SME Finance Forum** held four working meetings in 2012 to explore new ideas to improve access to finance for SMEs in the area of EU financial instruments, the financing of social enterprises, microcredit and an emerging source of finance -crowdfunding.

08.03.2012: SME Finance Forum Working Meeting: Brussels

16.05.2012: SME Finance Forum Workshop on Financing Social Enterprises: Brussels

07.09.2012: SME Finance Forum Workshop on Microcredit: Brussels

26.11.2012: SME Finance Forum Workshop on Crowdfunding, Brussels

The SME Finance Forum was set up to monitor the market situation and to facilitate access to finance for SMEs. It brings together business organisations, banks and other financial institutions.

Works on improving the **application of the SME test** continued in 2012. The monitoring of the impact assessments performed for the proposals more relevant for SMEs was ensured.

28.09.2012: A new initiative to identify the **top ten most burdensome pieces of EU legislation** was launched in the context of the Commission measures to reduce regulatory burdens for SMEs (as follow-up of the Report "Minimizing regulatory burden for SMEs - Adapting EU regulation to the needs of micro-enterprises", COM (2011)803).

The results of the "top ten burden" consultation will guide the Commission in its future work on regulatory fitness.



Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry launched, in the frame of the **eBSN (European e-Business Support Network for SMEs)**, the EU initiative to promote the smart use of information technologies and the integration of SMEs in global industrial value chains.

The objective is to modernise industrial value chains through the smart use of ICT and help notably SMEs better connect to larger enterprises and become fully integrated international business partners. The focus of these actions is on SMEs, notably how to help them get connected and offer them a better position in the globalised world.

This initiative consists of a series of demonstration actions, with the objective to catalyse interoperable eBusiness frameworks to help connect SMEs to larger enterprises. Six major demonstration actions have started already namely in support of the **automotive industry, the fashion industry, the transport and logistics sectors, the tourism industry, the agro-food supply-chain and in the construction sector**.

This initiative is complementary to the actions included in the Digital agenda and a key step towards the implementation of the Digital Single Market.

First results are remarkable. The business benefits of digital supply chains lie on significant efficiency gains, speedier and affordable integration of SMEs, cost savings, better time management, error-free communication, demand-driven production, but also better services to customers, new market opportunities and better time to market. In the actions completed already, there are good prospects for mass market adoption through sound industry-led leadership and European standardisation initiatives.

The initiative was launched in 2008 with an EU contribution of EUR 11.5 million, from the CIP programme and over 20 000 small enterprises have been involved in these actions. The added value is not limited to the number of direct beneficiaries, but lies mostly in the creation of new models that can be adopted to have a major impact in the real market.

The **European Network of Female Entrepreneurship Ambassadors** continued to be implemented in 2012: 270 ambassadors in 22 European countries and the European Network of Mentors for Women Entrepreneurs: 200 mentors in 17 countries.

Raised awareness and visibility of **female entrepreneurship** in Europe by dedicating the European SME Week Summit of 2012 (see below) to female entrepreneurship. The summit focused on the economic importance of having more women entrepreneurs in Europe and relevant workshops focused on: entrepreneurship education, migrant background, access to finance and technology- based businesses for women entrepreneurs, themes where support can make a significant difference in nurturing more women entrepreneurs.



EUROPEAN SME WEEK

makes business sense". More than 600 participants (women entrepreneurs from across Europe and representatives from business associations, European, national, regional organisations) attended the conference.

European SME Week 2012

Close to 1500 events were held in 37 participating countries.

The European SME Week main event, the **European SME Week 2012 Summit** took place at the Square Brussels Meeting Centre on 17 October. The theme of the conference was "**Women's Entrepreneurship**



For the 2012-13 edition of the general SME Week brochure "**The Secret of Success**" the theme is "**European SMEs as International Champions**". The brochure highlights 37 entrepreneurs who are successful in exporting their products and/or services. The achievements of these EU international champions provide valuable lessons and inspiration for the international expansion of other SMEs. The brochure is available in 21 official EU languages.

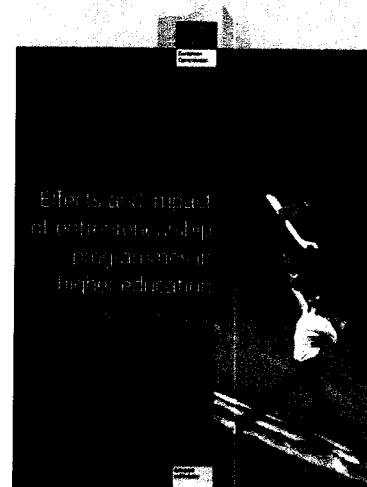


Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs 2012: The number of accepted registrations for the programme has reached 4.500 accepted applications, from which almost 2000 are Host Entrepreneurs. The programme is now at full speed with around 600 exchanges completed per year. The total number of exchanges matched since the starting of the programme in 2009 is now of more than 1400 and this number increases by around 12 new relationships per week on average. During 2012, 1300 entrepreneurs were accepted to the programme and 504 relationships were matched.

Entrepreneurship Education 2012

Activities in the field of entrepreneurship education focused on training and supporting teachers, through the organization of workshops at European level for the exchange of good practice and the publication of a new call for proposals (7 European projects started in December 2012).

A new study on the "Effects and impact of entrepreneurship programmes in higher education" was carried out and its results have been published. Results show that entrepreneurship education makes a difference: young people who went through entrepreneurial programmes and activities display more entrepreneurial attitudes and intentions, get a job earlier after finishing their studies, can innovate more even as employees in a firm, and start more companies that grow quicker.



Social entrepreneurship

23.04.2012 and 29.9.2012: Organisation by Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry and the Association "Cooperatives Europe" the first and with Cyprus the second of two large conference on 'Co-operative contributions to the EU 2020 strategy' with more than 200 participants and Member States.

05.06.2012 and 26.11.12: Two meetings of the **Consultative Group of experts on social enterprises**, created following the adoption of the **Social Business Initiative** (in cooperation with Directorate-General Internal Market and Services and Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) in October 2011.

14.06.2012: Call for proposals for the payment of five national projects run by statistical offices for the collection of data in the sector of social enterprises.



12.11.2012: Publication of the "**Study on the current situation and prospects of mutuals in Europe**" financed by the Commission. A public consultation is foreseen on the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

Horizon 2020

30.11.2011: Proposal for a Regulation establishing Horizon 2020 - The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), COM(2011)809.

Horizon 2020 will deliver **growth and jobs** and improve European **competitiveness**. By bringing all innovation and research actions together to ensure that **ideas are brought to the market**. Participation of European industry in general - and **SMEs** in particular - in Horizon 2020 is a priority, and to achieve this, the proposed **simplification** efforts are crucial.

- 31.05.2012: The Council adopted a partial general approach on the Horizon 2020 Framework Regulation;
- 10.10.2012 The Council adopted a partial general approach on the Rules for Participation and on the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology) Regulation.
- 28.11.2012: The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the European Parliament adopted the draft reports on Horizon 2020.
- 11.12.2012: the Council adopted partial general approach on Council decision establishing the Specific Programme

The timing of conclusion of the negotiations on the proposal is very closely linked to the overall discussions on the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.

COSME

30.11.2011: Proposal for a Regulation establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SME (2014-2020) (COSME), COM(2011)834.

COSME will continue and **strengthen the competitiveness-related activities** of the current Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme to achieve the goals of Europe 2020, in particular the **creation of growth and jobs**, including actions to improve access to finance and markets, to promote entrepreneurship and to improve framework conditions for the competitiveness of European enterprises, in particular SMEs. COSME will allocate close to 60% of its budget to financial instruments (venture capital and loan guarantees).

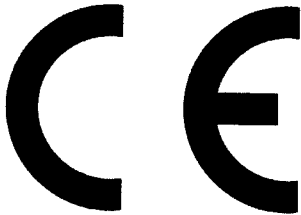
- 30.05.2012: Council has adopted a partial general approach (PGA) on the proposal
- 29.11.2012: In the European Parliament the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy has adopted its draft report.

The timing of conclusion of the negotiations on the proposal is very closely linked to the overall discussions on the next MFF 2014-2020.

The Financial Instruments under the **Competitiveness and Innovation Framework programme (CIP)** have provided impressive results. In CIP participating countries and by the end of September 2012 more than EUR 12.5 billion in loans have been made available through 42 financial intermediaries to over 200 000 SMEs under the CIP SME Guarantee facility (SMEG) while under the CIP High-Growth and Innovative SMEs Facility (GIF) more than EUR 2.0 billion in venture capital funding have been mobilised through 32 venture capital funds, investing in 254 companies.

4. SINGLE MARKET

CE Marking and market surveillance



The Commission has carried out an **information campaign from January 2010 until March 2012** and thus raised the awareness of the economic operators and citizens about the CE marking, as well as their rights/obligations in this respect. The campaign included among other things the creation of a "CE marking" dedicated website in all EU/EFTA languages (<http://ec.europa.eu/cemarking>), the drafting of informative material, the presence in major commercial fairs, the carrying out of educational seminars etc.

The Commission pursued its action to reinforce the **market surveillance**. Under the supervision and guidance of the Commission, Member States have established more efficient national market surveillance programmes for a better monitoring of the use of the CE marking. This has established efficient mechanisms for detecting unsafe products, removing them from the market and protecting thus the public interest. The Commission coordinates national programs and ensures that adequate controls are made. The Commission helped Member States in the implementation exercise by suggesting common principles for the national programmes.

The Commission has recently acquired the **ICSMS** tool (Information and Communication System for Market Surveillance) in order to offer to Member States a platform for the implementation of the market surveillance policy.

The Commission will adopt the following documents on 13 February 2013:

- COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE: More Product Safety and better Market Surveillance in the Single Market for Products
- Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on consumer products safety and repealing Council Directive 87/357/EEC and Directive 2001/95/EC
- Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on market surveillance of products
- COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE: 20 actions for safer and compliant products for Europe: a multi-annual action plan for the surveillance of products in the EU
- REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93



Prevention of technical barriers to trade

Directive 98/34/EC lays down a **notification procedure of national technical regulations** and rules on Information Society services prior to their adoption.

It is an effective instrument of prevention of technical barriers to trade in the Internal Market and of cooperation between the Commission and the Member States and among the Member States themselves. Directive 98/34/EC provides a three months standstill period from the notification allowing the Commission and the other Member States to analyse the national draft legislation in the light of EU law.

In 2012 the **Member States and associated States notified 755 draft technical regulations in the framework of Directive 98/34/EC**. The Commission issued 64 detailed opinions, 150 comments and 4 blockages as reactions to these notifications.

Standardisation

25.10.2012: Adoption of Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on European **Standardisation** (OJ L 316, 25.10.2012, p. 12).

The regulation, which adapts and simplifies the legal framework for standardisation to reflect the latest developments and future challenges as set out in the Commission's 'Standardisation Package' of 01.06.2011, applies since 1 January 2013.

In 2012, a Guidebook on "**Using standards to support growth, competitiveness and innovation**" from the guidebook series "How to support SME Policy from structural funds" has been published and four actions for supporting SMEs in the standardisation area have been selected for financing.

17.10.2012: Proposal for a Directive amending the Directive 1999/5/EC of the European Parliament and Council of 9 March 1999 on **radio equipment and telecommunications terminal equipment** and the mutual recognition of their conformity, COM(2012)584.

The proposal aims to clarify and simplify the Directive, to facilitate its application and to eliminate unnecessary burden, ensuring that all market players comply with the rules regarding the avoidance of interference ultimately increasing all stakeholder's confidence in the regulatory framework.

II. INDUSTRIAL SECTORS

5. REACH, CLP AND OTHER CHEMICALS RELATED LEGISLATION

REACH review

The background for the Review are legal obligations that the **REACH Regulation** puts on the Commission in Articles 75(2), 117(4), 138(2), 138(3) and 138(6) of REACH as well as Article 46(2) of the CLP Regulation.

In 2010, Vice-President Tajani and Commissioner Potočnik indicated that the **REACH Review** was an occasion also to look at the broader operation of REACH and cover a number of aspects beyond the minimum required by the Regulation.

The evidence base for the Review can be found in 11 externally prepared reports and studies as well as from reports from Member State and ECHA submitted to the Commission. **The review concludes that the Regulation is overall performing well and should not be revised**, although a number of pragmatic measures should be envisaged in the short and medium term to improve the workability of the process and reduce the costs, especially for SMEs, and that certain elements of the Regulation would need to be kept under observation until further experience is gained. The Commission's concerns over the impact of REACH on SMEs is reinforced by the recent survey showing that REACH is considered by SMES as one of the most 10 most burdensome pieces of EU legislation. In response, the Commission will propose further reductions of fees paid by SMEs to ECHA.



Furthermore, the Commission, ECHA, Member States and different stakeholders have invested considerable resources to inform companies in general, but also SMEs in particular, about their obligations and facilitate the implementation of REACH during its first 5 years of operation.

Relations with ECHA

The Vice-President visited ECHA in 2012 to discuss ECHA's preparedness for the next REACH registration deadline and how to promote competitiveness and innovation in the context of REACH

Directors Contact Group

The mandate for the Directors Contact Group (DCG) for REACH has been extended to cover the period from 1 April 2011 until 30 September 2013. This will allow the group to actively participate in preparations to the 2nd registration deadline. So far, 3 meetings took place in 2011 and 2 in 2012. The discussions have been initiated to extend the mandate of DCG also to cover issues relating to authorisations.

The DCG also discussed and supported the development of an IT platform by ECHA to facilitate contacts between companies having notified diverging classifications for the same substance to undertake efforts



to agree on the classification (as required by Article 41 of the CLP Regulation). The platform should become operational early in 2013.

National Helpdesks

The involvement of Member States' authorities in **raising awareness** varies across individual Member States (MS). The national helpdesks play a central role in providing support, organising events and keeping a link to ECHA-resources. In the HelpNet ECHA supports the national helpdesks by providing training and other support so that helpdesks are able to harmonise their efforts. The national helpdesk know their national audiences very well and can efficiently target the awareness raising efforts. The Competent Authorities (CA) as such in general have the political and strategic responsibility to implement REACH. In many MS the CA share co-responsibility with other authorities such as ministries responsible for economy or industry and/or labour-safety and/or environment. Those often play a very important role, namely in case of Italy or Austria in providing financial support and strategic (co-)steering for REACH implementation projects.

The commonly used tools are webpages and printed publications, guidance of general and specialized nature, workshops and other events, training and industry helpdesks. Some of the key industry stakeholders such as UEAPME, FECC, CEFIC, EuPC and Business Europe are particularly involved in the ongoing awareness raising considerations for SMEs. In many countries chambers of commerce and national industry associations play an important role in providing REACH and CLP related support.

Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)

Until December 2012, **138 Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs)** were included in REACH Candidate List. This fulfils the commitment made in 2010 by Vice-President Tajani and Commissioner Potočník to have 136 substances on The Candidate List by the end of 2012.

Another commitment made by the two Commissioners in 2010 was to define a Roadmap to include all relevant, currently known SVHCs in the Candidate List by the end of 2020. The Roadmap has been discussed with Member States Competent Authorities for REACH in November 2012. Its implementation will start in 2013.

Guidance on REACH

The Commission, ECHA, Member States and different stakeholders have invested considerable resources to inform companies in general, but also SMEs in particular, about their obligations and facilitate the implementation of REACH during its first 5 years of operation.

ECHA has made an effort to generate more 'targeted' guidance documents that are more useful for SMEs in 2012. ECHA call them 'Guidances in a nutshell', 'Factsheets' or 'practical guides'.

| Main actor | Type of measure | Examples |
|---------------------|--|---|
| European Commission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> External communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialised workshops and conferences Contribution to general dissemination events Monthly specialised newsletter for SMEs by the Environment Compliance Assistance Programme (eCAP). |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles in newsletters |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> information and awareness raising via existing networks • Enterprise Europe Network • Small Business Portal (SBP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in workshops and other events • Exhibition stands |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making use of EU funding (e.g. FP6 and FP7 or European Investment Bank) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Support for projects related to REACH and SMEs</u> • <u>Grants for the purpose of REACH compliance in particular to SMEs</u> |
| European Commission in cooperation with Member States | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making use of EU funding (e.g. European Regional Development Fund or European Social Fund) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of IT-tools for the information in the supply chain • Mentorships for regional REACH implementation projects • <u>The REACH-Net in Germany</u> |
| ECHA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance and relevant tools in all official EU languages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance documents • Multilingual REACH & CLP terminology database ("ECHA Term") |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated section on its <u>webpage</u> as a contact point for SMEs | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade Unions • SME associations |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-directorate task force coordinating SME-issues | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaising with existing networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Europe Network |

Implementation of Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP)

20.01.2012: **Commission Review in accordance with Article 45 (4)** of the CLP Regulation on the possibilities to harmonise the information to be communicated to Poison Centres for formulating preventive and curative measures in the event of emergency health responses. The Commission concluded – and has been supported by Member States and other stakeholders – that there is potential to achieve harmonisation of the content and the format of these notifications which will reduce



administrative burdens for companies placing the same chemicals on the market in several Member States. Further work to prepare a legislative proposal has been launched in the 2nd half of the year.

10.07.2012: **Commission Regulation (EU) No 618/2012** adapting to technical progress for the 3rd time the CLP Regulation to include into Annex VI new or amended harmonised classification and labelling entries for a range of substances.

29.10.2012: Commission Report on Communication on the safe use of chemicals, COM(2012)630, in accordance with Article 34(2) of the CLP Regulation.

The Commission concluded that – as consumers are not yet very familiar with the new labelling elements introduced by the CLP Regulation – rather than modifying the legislation, awareness raising campaigns should be conducted in all Member States ahead of the 1 June 2015 deadline by which all mixtures placed on the market will have to be classified and labelled in accordance with the CLP Regulation.

22.11.2012: Positive opinion of the REACH Committee on a Draft Commission Regulation for a 4th adaptation to technical progress of the CLP Regulation to incorporate the amendments from the 4th revision of the UN Globally Harmonised System for the classification and labelling of chemicals. The Regulation will be formally adopted in the 1st quarter 2013.

Publication by ECHA in February 2012 of the first version of the Classification & Labelling Inventory, which has been updated several times since, based on the notifications submitted by companies for the classification and labelling of substances by 03.01.2011 and any additional notifications submitted since then. It now contains classification information for more than 120 000 substances, based on more than 5,7 million notifications, and the information contained in REACH registration dossiers. ECHA has also developed an IT platform to facilitate contacts between companies having notified diverging classifications for the same substance to undertake efforts to agree on the classification (as required by Article 41 of the CLP Regulation). The platform should become operational in early 2013.

Detergents

30.03.2012: Adoption of Regulation (EU) No 259/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 on **detergents as regards the use of phosphates and other phosphorus compounds in consumer laundry detergents and consumer automatic dishwasher detergents**, OJ L 94 30.3.2012, p. 16.

The Parliament and the Council agreed to move the date for the restriction for consumer laundry detergents to 30 June 2013 and express the limit in 'grams per standard wash' instead of weight-%. They also included restrictions for consumer automatic dishwasher detergents as of 1 January 2017, however, subject to a further review by the Commission by 31 December 2014.



6. NANOMATERIALS AND NANOTECHNOLOGIES

3.10.2012: Commission Communication on the **Second Regulatory Review on Nanomaterials**, COM(2012)572

It assesses progress on the extent to which potential risks of nanomaterials are properly addressed and describes the Commission's plans to improve EU law and its application to ensure their safe use. The definition of nanomaterials adopted in 2011 will be integrated in EU legislation, where appropriate. Overall, REACH sets the best possible framework for the risk management of nanomaterials but more specific requirements within the framework have proven necessary, in particular modifications in some of the REACH Annexes and development of guidance for registrations after 2013.

The Communication is accompanied by a **Staff Working Paper on nanomaterial types and uses, including safety aspects** (SWD(2012)288 final), which gives a detailed overview of available information on nanomaterials on the market, including their benefits and risks. The Commission will create a web platform with references to all relevant information sources, including registries on a national or sector level, where they exist. In parallel, the Commission will launch an impact assessment to identify and develop the most adequate means to increase transparency and ensure regulatory oversight, including an in-depth analysis of the data gathering needs for such purpose.



7. RAW MATERIALS



29.02.2012: Communication on a proposal for a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Raw Materials, COM(2012)82.

It identifies the areas where it will be necessary to innovate in the next 10 years, in order to reduce Europe's import dependency on the raw materials crucial for the competitiveness of our industries. This will be achieved by providing Europe with enough flexibility and alternatives in the supply of important raw materials through innovative European-based exploration, extraction, processing and recycling activities and substitutes for scarce raw materials.

Based on the public Call for expression of interest in the EIP Governance groups, including High Level Steering Group (HLSG), Sherpa Group and five Operational Groups, the selected members have been appointed and published in December 2012 on the EIP web page. At the same time, Vice-President Tajani invited Commissioners Geoghegan-Quinn and Potocnik, 7 Member States Ministers, as well as other HLSG members to the **first meeting of the HLSG** in February 2013 in order to launch the preparation of the Strategic Implementation Plan of the EIP.

During 2012, preparatory work took place for the timely creation of the **European Rare Earth Network (ERECON)**. ERECON is a pilot project initiated by the European Parliament with a budget of EUR 1.000.000. Rare earth elements are vital inputs to the EU economy, in particular important for the production of high-tech and environmentally friendly goods. During 2013 and 2014 the competency network ERECON will bring together stakeholders to exchange best practice, increase the understanding of the special properties of rare earth elements, make recommendations on research and promote the sustainable mining, recyclability and substitution of rare earths.

26.01.2012: High-Level Conference "EU-Africa Partnership on Raw Materials Translating Mineral Resource Wealth into Real Development for Africa" in Brussels. The conference created the political momentum for the implementation of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy Action Plan 2011-2013 on raw materials and engaged all stakeholders in this process. It delivered recommendations for implementation in all areas of cooperation

8. AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY



06.06.2012: Adoption at unanimity by all the members of the High Level Group, including notably 7 Commissioners, Ministers and CEOs, of the **CARS 21 report**.

08.11.2012: CARS 2020: Action Plan for a competitive and sustainable automotive industry in Europe, COM(2012)636

The Commission Communication evaluates the group's policy recommendations as formulated in the Final Report and announce the Commission position on these. It identifies issues affecting the automotive sector that may need further Commission attention in the light of the views expressed by the group.

09.12.2012: in the Competitiveness Council's Meeting 17 Ministers expressed full support to the objectives and measures CARS 2020.

Regulation (EU) No .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approval of **agricultural or forestry vehicles**

The European Parliament has adopted a compromise package in 1st reading on 20 November 2012 and the Council on 28 January 2013. The Proposal aims at simplifying EU law on tractors, trailers and increasing safety for these vehicles. It also sets requirements for engine emissions and sound levels, defines the administrative provisions that a manufacturer has to fulfil for the type-approval of these vehicles and includes provisions for access to Repair and Maintenance Information (RMI).

Regulation (EU) No .../... of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadricycles

The Proposal has been adopted at EP plenary in 1st reading on 20 November 2012 and at the General Affairs Council on 10 December 2012. The Proposal incorporates a number of vehicle functional safety improvements a wide range of vehicles such as two- or three-wheel powered cycles, two- or three-wheel mopeds, motorcycles with and without a side-car, tricycles, on-road quads and mini-cars. It sets ambitious emission requirements for these vehicles and foresees adaptation to the latest and anticipated near-future vehicle construction and propulsion technologies.



Electric and hybrid cars

14.11. 2012: With the adoption of 2nd amendment of Regulation 100, MS and Commission considered EU has the appropriate legislation for **safety of electric cars**.

Tractors

Revision of **tractors' legislation** is now communicated, as an agreement has been possible during 2nd semester between Council and PE.

Comitology measures adopted:

A long series of measures was adopted in 2012: new rules on masses and dimensions, precise regime of calculating CO2 for vans, assessment of eco-innovation, precise scope for advanced emergency braking system and lane warning departing system.

04.04.2012: Proposal for a Regulation simplifying the **transfer of motor vehicles registered in another Member State** within the Single market, COM(2012)164.

The main policy objective is to improve the functioning of the internal market through the elimination of barriers to the free movement of goods, services and workers, caused by the different administrative formalities and requirements for the registration of motor vehicles previously registered in another Member State.

9. PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products

01.03.2012: Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the **transparency of measures regulating the prices of medicinal products** for human use and their inclusion in the scope of public health insurance systems repealing Council Directive 89/105/EEC (the so-called Transparency Directive), COM (2012)84



The underlying policy **objective is to improve the functioning of the internal market for medicines**. The aim of the review is to update the directive dating back from 1989, taking into account the case-law developed by the European Court of Justice, the outcomes of the Pharmaceutical Sector Inquiry and of the pharmaceutical market monitoring as well as developments in the market and in national pricing and reimbursement regulations.

High-level process in the field of public health

Platform on access to medicines in Europe (launched on 24 September 2010) – it was further elaborated with six working groups addressing the following issues:

- Promoting good governance for non prescription drugs
- Facilitating supply in small markets
- Mechanisms of coordinated access to orphan medicinal products
- Market access for biosimilars
- Capacity building on managed entry agreements for innovative medicines
- Prioritisation of medicines

Each of the groups met on different occasions during 2012, with the aim to deliver their conclusions in 2013.

Platform on Ethics and Transparency – this platform was launched in 2011. The COM acted as a facilitator of this process which for the first time has gathered and let to an agreement amongst all stakeholders (industry, health professionals, patient organisations, competent authorities).

06.11.2012: Adoption of a Decalogue of Guiding Principles on relative measures that can increase ethical and transparent behaviour in the pharmaceutical sector as a final result of these works.

Platform on access to medicines in developing countries with a focus on Africa (established in 2011) – two working groups have been set up in 2012: (1) on patent information; and (2) on local capacity building, in cooperation with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and World Health Organization (WHO). Both workings groups met on different occasions during 2012 with the aim to reach their deliverables by mid-2013.

10. TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Better regulation

27.01.2012: **Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 286/2012** amending the Textile Regulation 1007/2011 to technical progress in order to include a **new textile fibre name**, Annex I, and, for the purposes of their adaptation to technical progress, Annexes VIII and IX to Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of the fibre composition of textile products, OJEU L 95/1.



Upon the request from the European Parliament, two studies on the **situation and prospects of (1) the textile and clothing sector and (2) the footwear sector** were carried out with external contractors.

Three studies in view of preparing the reports due under Articles 24 and 25 of the Textile Regulation were launched and nearly finalised with external contractors:

- on the feasibility of a leather labelling system at European level;
- on the need and options for the harmonisation of the labelling of textile and clothing products;
- on the link between allergic reactions and chemicals in textile products.

Euromed



March 2012: A two-day conference with 75 participants from EU and Southern Mediterranean countries took place in Milan as part of the Euromed dialogue on textiles and clothing. Participants shared best practices for supporting research and SME cooperation with programs and funding.

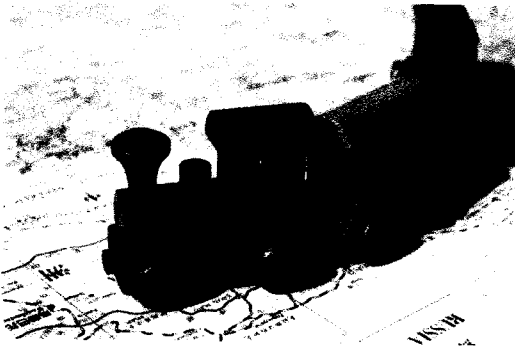
Fashion and high-end industries

In parallel to the Communication on "Cultural and creative sectors for growth and jobs in the EU" adopted by the Commission on 26 September 2012, two Commission staff working documents were published with the contribution of a Fashion Working Group and the High Level Group:

- 26.09.2012: Competitiveness of the European high-end industries, SWD(2012)286
- 05.10.2012: Policy options for the competitiveness of the European fashion industries "Where manufacturing meets creativity", SWD(2012)284 final/2.

These documents discuss possible policy initiatives for skills and innovation, protection of IPR, a level-playing field in trade and a regulatory framework for growth.

11. TOYS SAFETY



In January 2012, the **European toy safety information campaign** was launched. Training sessions on toy safety have been organised for economic operators involved in toy manufacturing and marketing, in order to raise their awareness on the new rules in place. The campaign reached more than 600 economic operators, in 17 Member States. Additional training is foreseen for 2013.

Similar training sessions have been organised in China and Honk Kong, in October 2012, for manufacturers and enforcement authorities. Additional training is foreseen for 2013.

In July 2012, a new [video clip](#) on toy safety was launched, starring the CE-E robot, to raise consumer's awareness on toy safety, and to provide them with useful tips on how to safely buy and use toys. A Facebook account was created for CE-E, where he daily delivers useful tips on toy safety. This initiative will be continued in 2013.

Limit values for cadmium and lead

02.03.2012: [Commission Directive 2012/7/EU](#) establishing **new stricter limit values for cadmium in toys**.

For **lead**, the Commission assessed the impacts of the initiative on health and industry's competitiveness, and will amend the Directive on this point in 2013. The Commission is also preparing an amendment establishing stricter limit values for barium in toys, and another restricting the use of TCEP and its substitutes in toys, for which the opinion of the Toy safety Committee will be requested in the first quarter of 2013.



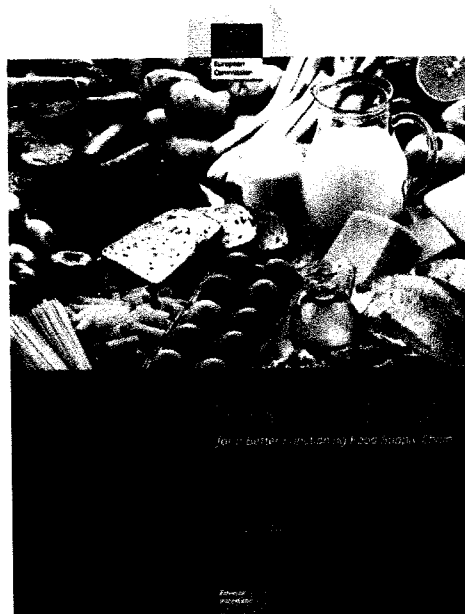
12. FOOD INDUSTRY

High Level Forum for a better functioning of the food supply chain

05.12.2012: The High Level Forum for a Better Functioning Food Supply Chain adopted its [final report](#).

It indicates that 80% of the initiatives proposed in 2009 to improve competitiveness in the sector have been implemented or are very well on track. The Forum also proposed additional activities to be carried out, namely on: the pilot project on a fitness check for the food sector; unfair business-to-business trading practices; the implementation of Europe 2020 flagship initiatives in the food sector; price monitoring; and the identification of new challenges.

19.12.2012: The Commission decided to prolong the Forum's mandate by two years, until the end 2014, to work on these topics.



Trade arrangements for processed agricultural products

Improvement of trade concessions for Processed Agricultural Products was achieved in the course of three agreements:

01.10.2012: Entering into force of the deepening of the **free trade agreement with Morocco** in the framework of the Association Agreement, COM(2010)485 JO L 70 du 18.3.2000, p. 2.

29.11.2012: Adoption of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union, of the one part, and the **State of Israel**, of the other part, amending the Annexes to Protocols 1 and 2 of the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State of Israel, of the other. It is expected to enter into force in the beginning of 2013. This amending Agreement clarifies the trade concessions for certain processed and basic agricultural products.

07.12.2012: Signature of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Union and the **United States of America** pursuant to Article XXIV:6 and Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 relating to the modification of concessions in the schedules of the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania in the course of their accession to the European Union.

16.09.2012: Final negotiations on free trade area (FTA) between the European Union and **Singapore** were completed.

13.SHIPBUILDING



In 2012 Vice-President Tajani launched the process of the **revision of LeaderSHIP 2015** aiming at increasing the competitiveness of the industry, with a strong focus on innovation and new markets.

27.02.2012: A first hearing with the industry stakeholders (shipbuilding and maritime equipment industry, trade unions) kicking off the revision process took place. Its main focus was on the rationale and the scope of the revision and its main thematic areas.

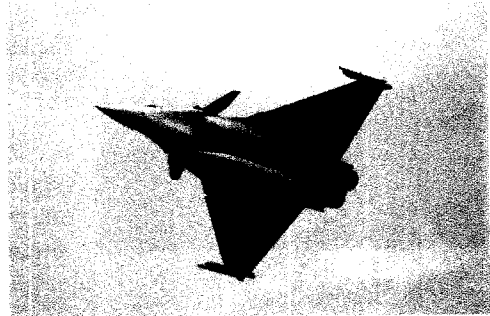
30.03, 04.05 and 25.10.2012: Meetings of the Co-ordination Group involving all the stakeholders.

The revision comes also as a response to the parallel crisis in the shipbuilding, maritime transport and ship finance. The final report prepared with the full participation of industry, trade unions, Member States, regions and NGOs will be adopted at the high level conference on 20 February 2013.

14. DEFENCE INDUSTRY

Following the establishment of the **Commission's Task Force on Defence Industries and Markets** in 2011 there has been considerable progress in the area of defence in 2012. In particular:

- The Task Force has undertaken a wide-ranging review of Commission policies that have a direct and indirect impact of the defence sector;
- Vice-President Tajani announced on 10.10.2012 that the Commission will adopt a Communication on defence industrial and internal market policy, building on the work of the Task Force, by the end of spring 2013. This Communication will be a major part of the Commission's contribution to the European Council on Defence planned for December 2013.



29.06.2012: Report on transposition of Directive 2009/43 simplifying intra-UE transfers of defence relate products, COM(2012)359.

The report contains information on the measures taken by Member States to transpose the Directive.

Firearms

26.07.2012: Report to the European Parliament and the Council on possible advantages or disadvantages of a reduction to two categories of firearms (prohibited or authorised), COM(2012)415. In view of better functioning of internal market with high security standards, the report assesses simplification in categorisation of firearms.

15. SECURITY INDUSTRY

09.07.2012: Publication of the final call (FP7-SEC-2013-1) of the FP7 Security Theme, worth EUR 300 million.

Research topics include among others:

- Large scale demonstration programmes on crisis management and supply chain security;
- Preparedness for and management of large scale fires;
- Smart and protective clothing for law enforcement and first responders;
- Novel technologies and management solutions for protection of crowds;
- Protection of smart energy grids against cyber-attacks;
- Non-military protection measures for merchant shipping against piracy;
- Fast rescue of disaster surviving victims;
- The impact of social media in emergencies;

25-26.09.2012: Organisation of the **Security Research Event** (SRE) in Essen

This event is the largest event of the security research community in Europe. Embedded in the Essen Security Fair, which is the largest civil security fair in the world, **the SRE brought together over 400 hundred stakeholders from all societal areas across two days of conferences and workshops.** Vice-President Tajani seized this opportunity to discuss the future of the EU security industry with several CEO's of large European security companies.

30.07.2012: Communication "Security Industrial Policy - Action Plan for an innovative and competitive Security Industry", COM(2012)417

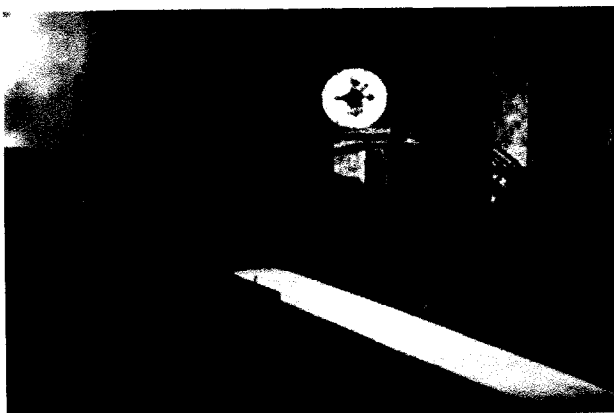
The main objectives are:

- Enhancing the security of the European citizens;
- Establishing a strong internal market for security by: overcoming the market fragmentation; strengthening of the industrial basis; enhancing the competitiveness of the EU security industry in the world;
- Reducing the gap between research to market;
- Ensuring the integration of societal dimension in security technologies.

16. STEEL INDUSTRY

The steel industry is one of the sectors hard hit by the economic stagnation. As the consequences, production capacities closures have been taking place in many countries of the EU. The situation required analysis of major developments occurring in the steel industry and of the factors affecting competitiveness of European producers.

Following meetings with Members of the European Parliament (Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)), Vice-President Tajani together with Commissioner Andor convoked, in July 2012, a **High-level Roundtable on the future of the European Steel Industry as a platform for dialogue between the Commission, industry and trade unions.**



Two meetings of the Roundtable took place in 2012. The dialogue with stakeholders provided identification of the key factors and policies affecting competitiveness of the steel sector and allowed to gather recommendations for concrete actions that could help to keep the sector competitive over long term.

III. SPACE / GALILEO / COPERNICUS

Galileo and EGNOS (European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service) programmes

A number of key achievements took place in the **implementation of Galileo**:

- 02.02.2012: Signature of contracts for the manufacturing of additional satellites, booking of launches and adaptation of Ariane 5. This will accelerate the Galileo deployment.
- 12.10.2012: Second launch of Galileo (IOV) satellites. It increased the number of satellites of the Galileo constellation in space to four.

30.11.2011: Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the **implementation and exploitation of European satellite navigation systems**, COM(2011)814:

- 07.06.2012: Council has adopted a partial general approach (PGA) on the proposal
- 18.09.2012: In the European Parliament the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy has adopted its draft report.

24.2.2012: Adoption of Implementing Decision 2012/117/EU concerning **Galileo ground-based centres and stations**.

02.10.2012: Signature by Vice-President Tajani and the Cypriot Minister in charge of Communications and Works of an agreement for setting up a Galileo MEOLUT ground station (for the Galileo Search and Rescue (SAR) service) in the Republic of Cyprus.



26.07.2012: Vice-President Tajani officially inaugurated the **third EGNOS service – EDAS (the EGNOS Data Access Service)**, thereby completing the range of three EGNOS services offered to the public. **This service allows GPS data to be obtained via the internet**, in addition to access via the existing satellite signal, and will

make satellite navigation in Europe more reliable and effective for use in difficult surroundings.

21.03.2012: Vice-President Tajani and the South African Minister of Science & Technology Ms Naledi Pandor signed a Joint Statement that initiates the **cooperation on EGNOS between the EU and South Africa**.

In May 2012, the Vice-President and the Chinese Minister of Science & Technology Mr Wan Gang signed the Elements of Consensus (EoC) that define a way forward as regards cooperation between the EU and China in the field of Space.



04.09.2012: Two proposals for Council Decisions for a **Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States**, of the one part, and the **Swiss Confederation**, of the other, on the European Satellite Navigation Programmes, COM(2012)469 and 470.

09.10.2012: Proposal for a Council Decision on the **Conclusion of the GNSS Cooperation Agreement between the European Community, its Members States and Ukraine**, COM(2012)569.

Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) / Copernicus

2012 saw the implementation of the Regulation N°911/2010 establishing the programme initiated in 2011. It includes the setting up of two GMES services out of six: **Land monitoring and Emergency response**, the others are still being implemented as R&D projects through the FP7 Space theme.



The **GMES Land monitoring service** provides accurate and cross-border harmonised geo-information from global to local scales. It provides geographical information on land cover including its seasonal and annual changes and monitors variables such as the vegetation state or the water cycle. It has a wide range of applications for use in land use / land cover change, soil sealing, water quality and availability, spatial planning, forest monitoring and global food security. From 2012, the service is now operational.

The **Emergency management service** provides all actors involved in the management of natural disasters, man-made emergency situations and humanitarian crises, with timely and accurate geospatial information derived from satellite remote sensing and in-situ data. It has been activated 23 times in 2012, supporting first responders in events such as earthquakes in Italy, forest fires in Spain or floods in Bulgaria.

11.05.2012: Communication on the establishment of an intergovernmental agreement for the operations of GMES from 2014 to 2020, COM(2012)218.

11.12.2012: **Copernicus: new name for the European Earth Observation Programme:** The new name was announced by Antonio Tajani on the occasion of the Space Council. Copernicus is a driver for economic growth and employment, with the potential to create up to 85 000 new jobs over the period 2015-2030.

Space policy

Following-on to the EU space strategy communication adopted on 04.11.2011 COM(2011)152, the Commission continued working in the areas of Space industrial policy; space situational awareness (SSA), and relations between the EU and the European Space Agency.



14.11.2012: Communication on "Establishing appropriate relations between the EU and ESA", COM(2012)671.

It supports the idea of rapprochement of ESA towards the EU environment as a way of optimising space governance in Europe.

09.07.2012: Publication of the final call (FP7-SPA-2013-1) of the FP7 Space Theme, worth EUR 126 million.

Research topics:

- Climate change specific GMES service preparation
- Stimulating development of downstream services and service evolution
- Integration of satellite communication and satellite navigation solutions with space-based observation systems
- Research to support space science and exploration
- Space critical technologies for non-dependence
- Security of space assets from space weather events and space debris collisions
- SME space technology research and technology transfer

Two other dossiers are in the pipeline and are planned to be adopted by 13.02.2012:

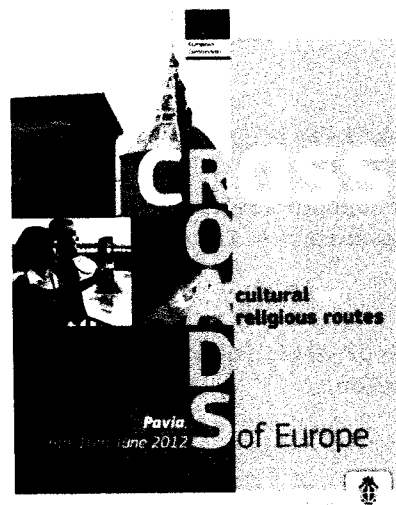
- a draft Communication on EU space industrial policy, which looks at ways and means of unlocking the potential for economic growth in the European space industry and improving its global competitiveness; and
- a proposal for a Decision on establishing a European Space Surveillance and Tracking (SST) support programme, the availability of which will contribute to the protection of the European space infrastructure, including Galileo and Copernicus/GMES.

IV. TOURISM

2012 activities actively contributed to promoting EU tourism in line with the Commission 2010 Tourism Communication, COM(2010)352 final.

The Commission continued its indefatigable efforts in (co-)organising high-level tourism events:

- 06/10.06.2012: Organisation of the first event "**Carrefours d'Europe / Crossroads of Europe**", mini-fair at the crossroads of cultural routes focusing on cultural tourism, in Pavia, Italy.
- 27.09.2012: The **European Tourism Day 2012** was dedicated to two important topics, namely, tourism seasonality and coastal and maritime tourism.
- 25/26.10.2012: The **European Tourism Forum 2012**, organised with the Cyprus Presidency was dedicated amongst others to the promotion of Europe as a destination.
- 06.12.2012: The Commission organised with the Committee of the Regions a first **awareness raising conference on accessibility in the tourism sector in Italy**.



17.01.2012: Signature of a **Joint Declaration on Tourism with the United Mexican States** by Vice-President Tajani and Mrs Guevara Manzo Secretary of Tourism.

The Commission continued ensuring the implementation of the **"50.000 tourists" initiative to increase low season travel between the EU and Brazil, Argentina and Chile**. At present, the initiative benefits of the participation of several UE Member States (IT, FR, ES, LT, PL, RO, GR, SK, MT, PT) and the 3 Latin American countries as well as of major industry stakeholders (e.g. major European airlines, European Associations of travel agents and tour operators associations and hotel accommodation, global travel distribution systems, and private partners).

The Commission deployed efforts in developing **EU initiatives** focussing in **particular on off-season tourism by senior citizens** in 2012.

Throughout 2012, the Commission has worked, with an external contractor, on a **European system of indicators for sustainable management of destinations** which will be launched in the context of an open conference on 22.02.2013 in Brussels.

The Commission services carried an important work, in close cooperation with the Tourism Sustainability Group (TSG), on a **European Charter for sustainable and responsible tourism** which should propose a set of principles and objectives for sustainable and responsible tourism.

Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry intensified cooperation with the OECD, especially for its "Tourism Trends & Policies" 2012 and 2014 studies. These will feed the future EU **"Virtual Tourism Observatory"**.

31.12.2012: Signature of the contract for the analysis and creation of an **ICT (Information & Communication Technologies) and Tourism business support portal**. The aim is to improve the competitiveness and efficiency of the tourism industry through the use of new information and communication technologies by creating a portal for businesses, especially SMEs. This portal should be operational in 2013.

EURES (European Employment Services), the European Job Mobility Portal, is being upgraded with a dedicated section for the hospitality sector. This section will allow job matching on the basis of skills rather than official qualifications. This will allow for **better matching of demand and supply** and **enhance mobility** in the sector, not in the least **for the young workers**.

31.12.2012: Signature of a contract of services to prepare more dedicated sections for other segments of the sector: cultural tourism, adventure tourism and marine and maritime tourism. These sections will be up and running in spring 2014.

In 2012, the Commission encouraged and facilitated communication activities related to the **European Destinations of Excellence**, as well as with regard **the diversity of the thematic transnational tourism products** (cultural, sportive, well-being, eno-gastronomic, etc.) Further to this, a call for proposals was published aiming at supporting National Tourism Administrations in charge of tourism to select and reward one tourist Destination of Excellence, to be chosen on the theme of "accessible tourism".



26.06.2012: Launch of the **call for proposals for the creation, development, strengthening and visibility of transnational thematic and sustainable tourism products** in the framework of the preparatory action "Promotion of European and transnational tourism products with special emphasis to cultural and industrial ones".

28.09.2012: Signature of a grant agreement with the European Travel Commission (ETC) to **enhance promotion and visibility of Europe and its destinations on third markets**.

10.09.2012: Launch of the broad **international communication campaign to keep Europe in the spotlight for international tourists** ("Europe - whenever you're ready")

In the context of the *Preparatory Action "Tourism accessibility for all"* (financed by the European Parliament):

- 6.11.2012: Conference on "**Tourism Accessibility: a winning strategy**" together with Committee of Regions in Treviso (Italy).
- 24.09.2012: Launch of the call for proposals for the setting up of the **1st European Excellence award for accessible Tourism**.
- 25.11.2012: Signature of the contract for the **assessment of the economic impact in the EU of accessible travel**.
- 31.12.2012: Signature of the contract for the **mapping of skills and training in the tourism sector** to foster accessibility.



V. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES / MISSIONS FOR GROWTH

Vice-President Tajani is organising Missions for Growth in European and third countries. These missions involve political and business meetings and discussions in areas of mutual interest in the fields of Enterprise & Industry policy but do not deal with specific trade policy issues; they allow for high-level contacts between Vice-President Tajani, European External Action Service, European entrepreneurs, and political authorities of third countries.

European companies are informed of these missions through the Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry's website, the Enterprise Europe Network, by industrial federations, Member States Embassies and by EU delegations and representations. The participation is open to all interested businesses. Missions for Growth are usually followed by missions led by the EU SME Envoy in missions concentrating specifically on SMEs.

The objective is to enhance cooperation in areas of mutual interest of enterprise & industry policy (through signature of political documents in various sectors such as industrial cooperation, innovation, standardisation, clusters, entrepreneurship, raw materials, SMEs, space, tourism).

During the pioneering period of December 2011 – December 2012, seven separate Missions for Growth involving eleven different countries, 300 companies (including some business federations) from 17 EU Member States took place.

The countries visited were: United States of America, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt.

In total, 51 political agreements were signed.

The last Missions for Growth took place from 22 to 25 January 2013 in Peru and Chile. In 2013, further visits to China, Russia and India (dates to be confirmed) are planned.

1. United States of America

Mission for growth from 10 to 12.05.2012 with a business delegation composed of 11 European Organisations and 2 National Associations.

11.05.2012: Letter of Intent between the United States of America and the European Union concerning cooperation in support of the activities of small and medium sized enterprises:

Develop a framework for cooperation between the International Trade Administration and the Enterprise Europe Network, including operational arrangements to collaborate on specific cooperative measures for SMEs.

10.05.2012: Recognition of Mutual Interest between Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission on toy safety issues : Signed by VP Tajani and Chairman Tenenbaum of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

Strengthen existing cooperation on toys safety, including the promotion of closer collaboration between standardisation bodies, increased synergies of market surveillance and enforcement



systems, organisation of joint activities with third countries + closer cooperation in the field of electrical appliances and fireworks.

21.05.2012: **Joint Statement on Space Cooperation between the United States of America and the European Union** by Antonio Tajani and Robert D. Hormats, Under Secretary, Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, U.S. Department of State:

Enhanced EU-US space cooperation with a view to strengthening stability in space by exploring areas of mutual interest (e.g. space situational awareness, orbital debris mitigation).

10.05.2012: **Recognition of Mutual Interest on the field of toy safety** Signed by Antonio Tajani and Inez Tenenbaum Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

Continuing and enhancing cooperation between the EU and US on toy safety.

2. United Mexican States

Mission for growth from 13 to 15.05.2012 with a business delegation composed of 14 European Companies, 3 European Federations, 1 Spanish regional federation representing 7 Member States.

17.01.2012: **Joint Declaration** between Mrs Gloria Guevara Manzo, Secretary for Tourism of the United Mexican States and Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission **to strengthen tourism flows between the United Mexican States and Europe:**

Develop cooperation and actions to facilitate tourism flows between Europe and Mexico by promoting travel in particular in the respective low seasons, optimising the use of available spare airline and accommodation capacity thus benefitting the local economy of the host destinations

15.05.2012: **Letter of intent on an SME policy dialogue** signed by Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr Bruno Ferrari Garcia de Alba, Secretary of Economy of the United Mexican States.

Establish a dialogue on SME Policy to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation, focus on exchanging information and practices aiming at the development of a modern SME policy framework conducive to entrepreneurship in an enhanced business environment. Appoint SME Envoys

15.05.2012: **Letter of intent on industrial cooperation** signed by Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Bruno Ferrari Garcia de Alba, Secretary of Economy of the United Mexican States

Promote and encourage direct cooperation towards those industrial sectors of mutual interest and deepen the industrial cooperation with the view of identifying new priorities and opportunities to foster their mutual potential for sustainable development and growth

15.05.2012: **Letter of intent on a policy dialogue on raw materials** signed by Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Bruno Ferrari Garcia de Alba, Secretary of Economy of the United Mexican States:

Develop a dialogue on raw materials and mining to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation and the exchange of information on policies related to raw materials and mining and establish communication channels so as to strengthen the exchange of information



15.05.2012: **Letter of intent for a space policy dialogue** signed by Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Dionisio Arturo Perez-Jacome, Secretary of Communications and Transport of the United Mexican States:

Establish a structured dialogue on space cooperation, involving the Mexican Space Agency, with the aim of building an effective system of partnership and cooperation between the European Union and the United Mexican States in civil space activities. In this regard, areas of potential cooperation could be Earth Observation and Earth Science; Contribution to the Group on Earth Observation; Global Navigation Satellite Systems and Satellite-based Augmentation Systems; Satellite communications

3. Colombia

Mission for growth from 16 to 17.05.2012 with a business delegation composed of 13 European Companies, 1 European Association, 3 European Federations representing 4 Member States.

17.05.2012: **Joint Declaration** between Mr. Gabriel A. Duque Mildenberg, Vice-Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Colombia and Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission **to strengthen tourism flows between Colombia and Europe**

Develop cooperation and actions to facilitate tourism flows between Europe and Colombia by promoting travel in particular in the respective low seasons, optimising the use of available spare airline and accommodation capacity thus benefitting the local economy of the host destinations

17.05.2012: **Letter of Intent on an SME policy dialogue** between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Gabriel A. Duque Mildenberg, Vice-Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Colombia

Establish a dialogue on SME Policy to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation, focus on exchanging information and practices aiming at the development of a modern SME policy framework conducive to entrepreneurship in an enhanced business environment. Appoint SME Envoys

17.05.2012: **Letter of Intent on industrial cooperation** between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Gabriel A. Duque Mildenberg, Vice-Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Colombia:

Promote and encourage direct cooperation towards those industrial sectors of mutual interest and strengthen innovation, technology transfer and absorption, diversification, modernisation, development and product quality in businesses

17.05.2012: **Letter of Intent on a policy dialogue on raw materials between** Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Mr. Gabriel A. Duque Mildenberg, Vice-Minister for Trade, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Colombia:

Develop a dialogue on raw materials and mining to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation and focus on exchanging information and practices which relate in particular to the competitiveness of our extractive industries and framework conditions that foster investment and innovation

4. Brazil

Mission for growth from 23 to 24.04.2012 with a business delegation composed of 17 European Companies, 2 European Associations, 1 Spanish Association, 1 European Industrial Association, 2 National Industrial Association representing 7 Member States

23.04.2012: **Joint Memo of the meeting** between Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director General, Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry) and Humberto Luiz Ribeiro da Silva (Secretary of Commerce, Brazil) **on the Kick-off meeting of the EU-Brazil SME Dialogue:**

Agreement to launch the SME dialogue and to fix a number of topics and objectives. Agreement to enhance co-operation between the SME Envoys on both sides.

5. Uruguay

Mission for growth on 25.04.2012 with a business delegation composed of 9 European Companies, 1 European associations, 1 Spanish association 2 regional associations, 1 European industrial association, 1 national industrial association representing 5 Members States .

6. Chile

Mission for growth from 26 to 27.04.2012 with a business delegation composed of 11 European Companies, 1 Spanish association, 2 regional associations, 1 national industrial association.

27.04.2012: **Joint Memo of the meeting** between Daniel Calleja Crespo (Director General, Directorate-General Enterprise and Industry) and Tomas Flores Jana (Deputy Secretary of Economy and SME's) **on the Kick-off meeting of the EU-Chili SME Dialogue**

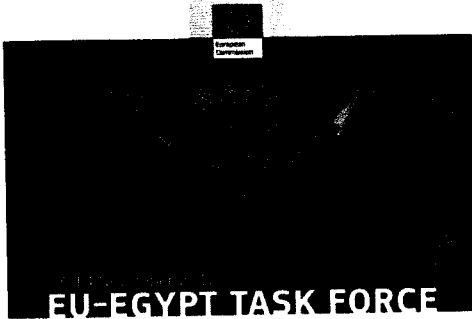
Agreement to launch the SME dialogue and to fix a number of topics and objectives and identify the role of different stakeholders

7. Egypt

Mission for growth from 13 to 14.11. 2012 with a business delegation composed of 102 European Companies and Industry Associations representing 13 Member States.

13.11.2012: **Letter of intent on SME policy dialogue** between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed by Antonio Tajani and Eng. Hatem Saleh, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade:

Political messages on the basis of SBA; SME friendly legislation, administrative start up modul; To reduce administrative burden for companies.



MEDIA COVERAGE

Antonio Tajani

European Commission Vice President
responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship

13.11.2012: **Letter of Intent on enhanced cooperation and exchange of information in the field of standardisation** between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed by Antonio Tajani and Eng. Hatem Saleh, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade:

Importance of standardisation for the competitiveness of the enterprises; Support standardisation (international and European); to improve their participation in the European standardisation and to strongly invite them to fulfil their rights and obligations deriving from being CEN-CENELEC Affiliates; Commitment of the EC to invite CEN-CENELEC to make sure that Affiliates are taken into proper account when elaborating a standard.

13.11.2012: Letter of Intent on industrial cooperation between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed by Antonio Tajani and Eng. Hatem Saleh, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade:

Aims at promoting and encouraging debate regarding industrial policy and competitiveness in an open economy, industrial cooperation between economic operators and technology transfer and industrial innovation.

13.11.2012: **Letter of Intent on the establishment of a mechanism of a regular dialogue in the field of tourism** between the European Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed by Antonio Tajani and Hisham Zaazou, Minister for Tourism:

Reinforcing the EU – Egypt Partnership in the tourism sector, while supporting the country's endeavours towards restoring tourist flows through a sustainable tourism growth and employment strategy.

8. Morocco

Mission for growth from 25 to 27.11. 2012 with a business delegation composed of 24 European Companies, 4 European Associations, 7 National Associations, 1 Investment promotion agency, 2 Mediterranean Associations.

26.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco **in the Field of Tourism** signed by Antonio Tajani and Dr. Lahcen Haddad Minister of Tourism:

Recognising the key role that the tourism sector plays in economic and social development and industrial competitiveness. Reinforcing cooperation in sustainable tourism and employment on both sides. Better coordination and cooperation.

Letter of Intent between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco **on SME policy dialogue** signed by Antonio Tajani and Abdelkader Aâmara Minister of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies:

Political messages on the basis of SBA; SME friendly legislation, administrative start up module; To reduce administrative burden for companies.

26.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco **on Conformity Assessment and the Acceptance of Industrial Products** signed by Antonio Tajani and Abdelkader Aâmara Minister of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies:

Boosting the competitiveness of a high value-added industry; To improve the predictability of market conditions, the removal of commercial protection barriers, and the harmonisation of systems; To create jobs and to improve bilateral collaboration.

26.11.2012: **Letter of Intent between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on Dialogue on Raw Materials** signed by Antonio Tajani and Fouad Douiri, Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment:

Fostering good governance in the natural resources sector; Promoting investment and infrastructure; Developing geological knowledge and skills; Supporting the implementation by the industry of a process for reducing the content of cadmium and other heavy metals in phosphoric acid and phosphates.

26.11.2012: Letter of Intent between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco on strengthening cooperation and exchange of information in the field of standardisation signed by Antonio Tajani and Abdelkader Aâmara, Minister of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies:

Importance of standardisation for the competitiveness of the enterprises; Support standardisation (international and European); to improve their NSB's participation in the European standardisation and to strongly invite them to fulfil their rights and obligations deriving from being CEN-CENELEC Affiliates; Commitment of the EC to invite CEN-CENELEC to make sure that Affiliates are taken into proper account when elaborating a standard

28.11.2012: Memorandum of Understanding on Clusters Cooperation signed by the representatives of the Moroccan Ministry of Industry, Trade and New Technologies; the Clusters and Competitiveness Foundation (CCF), the European Innovation Management Academy (EIMA), and the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP):

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the Moroccan-EU Business Forum, provides for the implementation of the "Euromed-innovative entrepreneurs for change" program. This program aims to promote excellence in cluster management, reinforce innovation management support services through training, develop closer cooperation between clusters, business incubators and networks to support the promotion of SMEs in common interest strategic areas through B2B/matchmaking partnership events.

9. Tunisia

Mission for growth on 28.11. 2012 with a business delegation composed of 24 European companies and 4 European Associations, 7 National Associations, 1 Investment promotion agency, 2 Mediterranean Associations.



26-27 November 2012

MISSION FOR GROWTH
in Morocco

MEDIA COVERAGE

Antonio Tajani

European Commission Vice President
responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship



28.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Republic of Tunisia **on Dialogue on Raw Materials** signed by Antonio Tajani and Mohamed Amine Chakhari, Minister of Industry, and Technology:

Fostering good governance in the natural resources sector; Promoting investment and infrastructure; Developing geological knowledge and skills; Supporting the implementation by the industry of a process for reducing the content of cadmium and other heavy metals in phosphoric acid and phosphates.

28.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Republic of Tunisia **on the Field of Satellite Navigation** signed by Antonio Tajani and Abdelkarim Harouni, Minister of Transport

EU technical assistance to Tunisia in the introduction of EGNOS

28.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Republic of Tunisia **on strengthening cooperation and exchange of information in the field of standardisation** signed by Antonio Tajani and Mohamed Amine Chakhari, Minister of Industry, and Technology:

Importance of standardisation for the competitiveness of the enterprises; Support standardisation (international and European); to improve their NSB's participation in the European standardisation and to strongly invite them to fulfil their rights and obligations deriving from being CEN-CENELEC Affiliates; Commitment of the EC to invite CEN-CENELEC to make sure that Affiliates are taken into proper account when elaborating a standard.

28.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Republic of Tunisia **on SME policy dialogue** signed by Antonio Tajani and Mohamed Amine Chakhari, Minister of Industry, and Technology:

Political messages on the basis of SBA; SME friendly legislation, administrative start up module; To reduce administrative burden for companies.

28.11.2012: **Letter of Intent** between the European Union and the Republic of Tunisia **in the Field of Tourism** signed by Antonio Tajani and Elyes Fakhfekh, Minister of Tourism:

Recognising the key role that the tourism sector plays in economic and social development and industrial competitiveness; Reinforcing cooperation in sustainable tourism and employment on both sides; Better coordination and cooperation.



17/28 November 2012

MISSION FOR GROWTH in Tunisia

MEDIA COVERAGE

Antonio Tajani

European Commission Vice President
responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship

10. Peru

Mission for growth on 23.01.2013 with a business delegation composed of 26 companies, 1 European Association, 1 National Association, 1 National Institute, 2 National Chambers, Representing 9 Member States

23.01.2013: **Joint declaration of the Republic of Peru and the European Union** to strengthen tourism flows between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Minister of Foreign Affairs Rafael Roncagliolo Orbegozo:

Develop cooperation and actions to facilitate tourism flows between Europe and Peru by promoting travel in particular in the respective low seasons, optimising the use of available spare airline and accommodation capacity thus benefitting the local economy of the host destinations

23.01.2013: **Letter of intent on an SME policy dialogue** between the European Union and the Republic of Peru between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Minister of Production Gladys Triveño Chan

Establish a dialogue on SME Policy to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation, focus on exchanging information and practices aiming at the development of a modern SME policy framework conducive to entrepreneurship in an enhanced business environment. Appoint SME Envoys.

23.01.2013: **Letter of intent on industrial cooperation** between the European Union and the Republic of Peru between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Minister of Production Gladys Triveño Chan

Promote policy measures to establish a dynamic, integrated and decentralised approach to managing cooperation in areas of interest to industry, so as to create a favourable environment to serve mutual interests

23.01.2013: **Letter of intent on cooperation in the field of sustainable construction** between the European Union and the Republic of Peru between Mr Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Minister of Production Gladys Triveño Chan

Promote policy measures to establish a dynamic, integrated and decentralised approach to managing cooperation in areas of interest to construction industry, so as to create a favourable environment to serve mutual interests

23.01.2013: **Letter of intent on a policy dialogue on raw materials** between the European Union and the Republic of Peru. between Mr. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the European Commission and Minister of Energy and Mining Jorge Merino Tafur

Develop a dialogue on raw materials and mining to promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral cooperation and focus on exchanging information and practices which relate in particular to the competitiveness of our extractive industries and framework conditions that foster investment and innovation

