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“A Vision for European Industry Until 2030”

**Opening speech at the inauguration meeting of the European Manufactures’
Forum**

17th of September 2019 Strasbourg, France

Dear Colleagues,

Dear Representatives of the European Manufacturing Industry,

I warmly welcome you to this Reception of the European Forum for Manufacturing, a platform where European Parliamentarians work together with the European industry to ensure growth, jobs and competitiveness of Europe’s manufacturing industry.

As I welcome you to this event today, new Members of our Parliament from different political groups, I would like to share a few words on the work of this Forum.

The European Forum for Manufacturing - the EFM - brings together representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council and representatives of the manufacturers’ industry who come from large and small companies as well as trade associations.

European policies this Forum examines cover industry, research, energy, internal market, economic, trade, environment, employment and legal issues. We look at regions and agriculture where technology is making an important contribution.

You will have received folders this evening, which contain one-page briefs on the manufacturing companies and trade associations who have co-sponsored this event.

At this point, I would like to draw your attention to the important Report on 'A vision for industry until 2030', prepared by the Industry 2030 High Level Industrial Roundtable. This Roundtable was established by the European Commission to provide independent advice on future EU industrial policy. There are 20 experts in this Roundtable representing small and big businesses, traditional and disruptive industries, unions, innovation and research community as well as finance and academia. It produced in July 2019, the report on "A Vision for the European Industry until 2030."

The Group has also made recommendations on the future of EU industrial policy strategy. The message is that European industry in 2030 can be a global leader, responsibly delivering value for our society, our environment and our economy.

Europe can build its competitive advantage on cutting-edge and break-through technologies, by investing in people, while respecting environment and biodiversity and building on smart European and global alliances.

The report highlights the challenges we face in Europe. They include a fast-changing geopolitical and economic situation, as well as growing social polarization. The report makes it also clear that an increasing role of digitization & technology brings opportunities but new challenges as well. The same is true for climate change.

I would like to encourage you to get acquainted with the report. I am convinced that during our meetings in months to come we will be reaching out to its messages frequently. And yes, Europe must respond to a series of specific and interconnected challenges facing our industries and build a new European industrial model to ensure Europe remains a leader in technology, innovation and sustainability. To succeed, Europe must put in place a model that supports our citizens in developing the right skills to embrace these changes and manage social fairness.

I recommend this report because turning the Industry 2030 vision into reality will require both action and collaboration between policy makers, legislators, all stakeholders to debate these policies. This is what this Forum is about.

We will alert you to the policy debates organized by the European Forum for manufacturing which take place in the Parliament, hosted and chaired by an MEP with contributions from the Commission, the Council Presidency, manufacturers and us, members of the European Parliament.

We invite you to join with us to seek the best solutions to the challenges which Europe faces.

We also seek your ideas on the issues which we should be considering. There is a Suggestion Box on the desk at the entrance to this room. Please take one of the sheets of paper next to the box, write down your suggestion and your name and we will consider the proposals which are sent to us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues I wish you all success in this new Parliamentary mandate.