



PARLIAMENTARY DIMENSION



Background note

Session 1

Strategic autonomy in the industries of the future.

With a keynote speech of Mr Thierry Breton, European Commissioner
for the Internal Market

Interparliamentary Conference on the strategic economic autonomy of the European Union

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Strategic autonomy in the industries of the future

The public health crisis and the resulting need for masks and vaccines have provided further proof, if any were needed, that industry is the foundation of our nations' economies and resilience. Similarly, the war in Ukraine directly highlights the dependence of our industries not only on Russian hydrocarbons, but also on imports of Russian aluminium, palladium, titanium or copper which supply the automotive, aeronautics, renewable energy and electronics sectors of our Member States.

The sectors essential to our future are not only those that will be capable, in the years to come, of developing breakthrough technologies to allow for instance the widespread storage and use of hydrogen for transport, the mass production of batteries for electric cars or the storage of the carbon generated by metallurgical industry processes.

Europe's industrial strategic autonomy will also involve **all the sectors that guarantee the smooth day-to-day running of our societies and economies**, even at times when the globalised economy is seeing a cyclical downturn. By this we mean the health industries, of course, which produce essential active ingredients for medicines, but also the manufacturing of electronic components indispensable to the automotive or machinery industries, the importance of which has been so well illustrated by the current chip shortage.

How can this effort to construct Europe's strategic autonomy be implemented in the industrial sector, in a context of growing geopolitical tensions, particularly in recent months?

Provide large-scale support for the emergence of new industrial activities by means of cross investment by national governments and Europe? Reinforce resilience in value chains by diversified partnerships? Improve the attractiveness of European production sites through tax policy and adapted regulations? No doubt all of these at the same time. With what tools, what actors, at what level?

These are the questions essential to the implementation of a true European industrial policy.

Among the instruments that will enable the development of European companies and industries, the question of **the reinforcement of the legal arsenal to guarantee the conditions of fair competition and protect the productive know-how and infrastructure** of foreign holdings or acquisitions, will be at the heart of this round table debate.