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PERIOD **END OF MANDATE REPORT**
2020 Consultative Commission
2023 on Industrial Change
(CCMI)

DIRECTORATE C – LEGISLATIVE WORK

PRESIDENT: PIETRO FRANCESCO DE LOTTO

Introduction

At the beginning of the mandate, the CCMI decided to base its work around three key pillars:

- 1. A green transition for European industry*
- 2. A comprehensive effort to digitalise Europe's productive sectors*
- 3. Enhancing the global competitiveness of EU industry in a globalization context where both increased strategic autonomy and cooperation are needed.*

During this mandate, while the EU industry was undergoing the twin green and digital transitions, the EU faced huge unexpected challenges. First, the global pandemic that exposed a certain lack of preparedness in many respects. Second, the outbreak of the war between Ukraine and Russia that revealed new vulnerabilities that the EU also has to tackle. Dealing with their consequences and finding viable solutions fell within the CCMI's core business of anticipating and managing change, and the CCMI addressed their industry-related aspects in its opinions.

Now, more than ever, it is the CCMI's task to advise European decision makers and to encourage them to make the correct decisions. During the 2020-2023 mandate the CCMI closely contributed to the European Commission's flagship initiatives on open strategic autonomy, European industry and its overall competitiveness. The CCMI continued to draw on its sectoral expertise to contribute to the Updated New Industrial Strategy for Europe, as well as to actions connected to, inter alia, the circular economy, decarbonisation, the digital and energy transformations, security and defence challenges and, last but not least, raw materials.

In addition to own-initiative opinions and referrals, supplementary opinions have proven to be an essential tool for delivering the CCMI's message. The added value of the CCMI is reflected in the increase of the number of annual meetings from 2022 onwards, which enables it to be more responsive to current developments. In June 2022, the CCMI celebrated the 20th anniversary of its integration in the EESC. It was the occasion to show that the oldest EU body devoted to forecasting the future and accompanying the transition of industrial sectors has succeeded to adapt and prove its added value in a constantly changing environment. It will continue to make full use of its specificities among the legislative bodies of the EESC to be a force of proposal for new initiatives, as has been the case with the EU Blue Deal.

Pietro Francesco De Lotto

President of Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI)

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First priority of the section

A GREEN TRANSITION FOR EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

Industry has and continues to play a key role in Europe's prosperity and development. However, industrial sectors are now confronted with the need for urgent action to mitigate negative impacts on the climate and the environment. The objective of reducing EU greenhouse gas emissions by 55% before 2030, operationalised through the "Fit for 55" package, is challenging and requires a clear roadmap for a just transition over the coming decades. Energy-intensive industries, in particular, will deliver the most effective levers to reduce CO2 emissions on a large scale. A key condition for the success of the energy and climate transition is that the EU citizens embrace it; therefore access to quality jobs and to affordable products should be ensured. This priority was addressed notably in the following opinions:

[CCMI/178](#) - Sustainability requirements for batteries in the EU

[CCMI/180](#) - Glass in Europe at a crossroads: delivering a greener, energy-efficient industry, while enhancing competitiveness and maintaining quality jobs + [public hearing](#)

[CCMI/183](#) - How Resource and Energy Intensive Industries can take advantage of the EU Recovery Plan in their socially acceptable transition towards de-carbonisation and digitalisation + [public hearing](#)

[CCMI/186](#) - Making packaging a safe, affordable and eco-friendly industry

[CCMI/190](#) - Role of carbon removal technologies in decarbonising the European industry

[CCMI/191](#) - Sustainable recycling, use of secondary raw materials and Just Transition in the European ferrous and nonferrous metal industry + [public hearing](#)

Second priority of the section

A COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT TO DIGITALISE EUROPE'S PRODUCTIVE SECTORS

The COVID-19 crisis has strongly accelerated the need to support and integrate the digital transition in EU industries. The ability to adopt digital solutions has allowed some industries and services to be more resilient in dealing with the consequences of the situation. These changes have opened completely new scenarios for EU industry and services and brought about new types of challenges - acquisition of new technologies, financial support, preparation for the "jobs of the future", rethinking the way companies protect themselves from data breaches, cyberattacks and digital espionage. Last, but not least, there is a strong need to foster a just transition and a people-centred approach to these changes.

The CCMI has tackled issues connected to digitalisation in several sectors. It has worked, for instance, on the chips industry, on the impact of implementing artificial intelligence in the automotive industry, on space-based secure connectivity, digitalisation in the services industry and the Industry 5.0 transition. Lastly, it has worked on several topics linked to the digital transition, including planned obsolescence and health services, for instance.

[CCMI/182](#) - Non-standard employment and platform cooperatives in the digital transformation of industry + [public hearing](#)

[CCMI/192](#) - Addressing structural shortages and strengthening strategic autonomy in the semiconductor ecosystem + [mini-hearing about semi-conductors](#)

[CCMI/194](#) - Digital Innovation Hub as facilitator for the green and digital transition of industrial SMEs: an overview of the main experiences

[CCMI/196](#) - Space-based secure connectivity and new space: a European industrial path towards sovereignty and innovation

[Conference on Robotics](#)

[The role of industrial policy, anticipation of change and the CCMI in delivering a Just Transition](#) – conference

Third priority of the section

ENHANCING THE GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS OF EU INDUSTRY

Securing the overall competitiveness of European industry has been a key objective of the Commission's industrial policy for several years, and even more so within the Updated New EU Industrial Strategy. With the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, the concept of open strategic autonomy has become central to EU competitiveness. This was highlighted in the context of the production and supply of medicines and masks in the early days of the pandemic, and it has been at the centre of all EU action since then, with key initiatives concerning the defence and security sectors.

The question of how public funds and state aid can be mobilised to support industry in a non-distortive way, and the criteria for the use and allocation of such funds needs to be addressed. All these debates open several scenarios that CCMI anticipated and contributed to, including the Action Plan on Critical Raw Materials. The CCMI also provided specific expertise with its supplementary opinion on the European Chips Act, more particularly focused on the needs of the defence and aerospace manufacturing industries, to name a few examples.

[CCMI/177](#) - Critical Raw Materials Resilience: Charting a Path towards greater Security and Sustainability + [webinar on The role of Critical Raw Materials to form a strong industrial base](#)

[Critical raw materials: an essential building block for the future of Europe](#) – conference
[Blockchain technologies for the Mining Industry](#) – online event
[CCMI/179](#) - Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries
[CCMI/195](#) - A Chips Act for Europe: Implications of the European Chips Act for defence and aerospace manufacturing
[CCMI/189](#) - Roadmap on security and defence technologies + [public hearing](#)
[CCMI/200](#) - European Defence Industry Reinforcement Through Common Procurement Act
[CCMI/198](#) - Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and the way forward + [public hearing](#)
[CCMI/185](#) - Updating the new industrial strategy - Impacts on the health industrial ecosystem
[CCMI/181](#) - The EU mobility strategy and EU industrial value chains: automotive eco-systems approach
[CCMI/184](#) - Anticipation of structural and sectoral change and reshaping industrial cultures – up to new borders of recovery and resilience in the different parts of Europe + [public hearing](#)
[CCMI/188](#) - Textile strategy + [public hearing](#)
[CCMI/193](#) - An industrial strategy for the maritime technology sector + [public hearing](#)
[CCMI/197](#) - Harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products
[Updated industrial strategy: towards a more resilient and strategically autonomous EU industry?](#) – conference

Interinstitutional echo

Cooperation with other institutions and follow up activities of opinions/studies

The CCMI conference on Critical Raw Materials is a prime example of enhanced cooperation between the CCMI and other institutions: DG GROW, the European Parliament and MEP Hildegard Bentele in particular, EIT Raw Materials and the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA) contributed to the success of the conference. The CCMI was in close contact with MEP Hildegard Bentele for the drafting of the EP's own initiative report on the subject. The strong link built up with ERMA led to the EESC joining the Alliance as an observer.

The Commissioner for Internal Market participated in major CCMI events, such as the High-level Conference on Critical Raw Materials and the Conference for the 20 years of the CCMI. The CCMI is receiving a growing number of positive feedbacks from the European Commission regarding its opinions. The EC is regularly attending the CCMI section and study group meetings. The CCMI also commissioned a study on "Hydrogen for the de-carbonization of the Resources and Energy Intensive Industries" which was welcomed by the European Commission. The newly introduced follow-up activities further strengthen ties with other institutions. For example, the CCMI has reached out to Commissioners' cabinets on CCMI/186 *Making packaging a safe, affordable and eco-friendly industry*.

The CCMI has increased its contacts with the Presidencies as well, as demonstrated by a joint CCMI-Czech presidency [event on packaging](#) in December 2022, and by the exploratory opinion requests submitted to the CCMI by both the Swedish and the Spanish Presidencies.

Communication achievements

The CCMI 20th Anniversary Conference took place in June 2022. In addition to commemorating its 20 years of existence, this was a major event to communicate CCMI's achievements to diverse stakeholders and to show that the CCMI is able to fulfill its mission, bringing added value to the EESC as a whole, to other EU institutions and to organized civil society. The event was well attended by journalists.

Several webstories and press releases were made in connection with key opinions. For instance, the webstory on "Digital platform economy: The EU must strike a balance between innovation and protecting the rights of workers" (CCMI/182) was sent to accredited and EU journalists and was also tweeted from the EESC press account tagging journalists and media. Upon the adoption of the [CCMI/178 Sustainability requirements for batteries in the EU](#), a position paper entitled "Towards a sustainable batteries industry in the EU" was published by the CCMI, taking into account the opinions of other sections as well.

The CCMI twitter account sees a steadily growing number of followers. The latest social media usage report indicates an increase of 20% in the number of twitter followers in the span of just one year. The CCMI published on average 14 tweets per month and thus keeps its followers informed about its ongoing activities and achievements. The publication of native tweets has more than doubled in the last reporting period.

Perspective/outlook

The long-term strategy of the CCMI should remain the analysis of and policy formulation for specific industrial sectors, as outlined in its mission statement. Since the CCMI is the successor of the Coal and Steel Community, the raw materials sectors will continue to take a special place on our agenda. In the past years the CCMI has become an advocate of a wide range of additional industrial sectors, which are often "forgotten" by the main European institutions. The CCMI will continue to focus on the most topical issues of green and digital transition, addressing the effects of the Ukraine-Russia war, the lingering effects of the pandemic, the EU recovery plan on the industrial and service sectors and open strategic autonomy. It will continue to make the most of its specificities among the legislative bodies of the EESC to be a force of proposal for future works.

Appendix – Key statistics

	As of 29 October 2020	2021	2022	Until 25 April 2023	Total
Section meetings	1	5	7	3	16
Section Bureau meetings	2	7	7	3	19
Study Group meetings	1	17	22	8	48
Permanent Study Group meetings					
Observatory meetings		1			1
Opinions					
Referrals		3	5		8
Exploratory opinions					
Own-initiative opinions	4	5	5	2	16
Supplementary opinions		1	2	1	4
Information reports	1				1
Evaluation reports					
Studies			1		1
Fact-finding missions					
Conferences and hearings organized by the Section	3	8	14	2	27
Participation of Members in meetings/events/conferences	4	9	9	1	23
Meetings between EESC/EP rapporteurs or Section/EP Committee presidents		1			1
Meetings of EESC members with Commissioners, members of Cabinet, Commission directors-general or directors	1		3		4
Meetings of EESC members with Council representatives, permanent representatives or EU presidency representatives			1		1