

A WORD FROM OUR DIRECTORATE GENERAL

At this challenging time for the industry, we take a moment to reflect on the year which has just passed and look forward to a brighter 2023 full of potential and opportunities for our industries.

2022 has been a year of adaptations for our industrial companies. First to the realities of production after the COVID-19 pandemic and then to the fallout from the war in Ukraine, which has worsened the current economic crisis and brought about an energy crisis. Beyond these unprecedented challenges, and the ones brought by the twin transition, Europe is facing demographic challenges which are contributing to a shortage of labour.

However, employers are, before anything, entrepreneurs, using challenges as opportunities and having a huge capacity to find solutions to the key global issues of our times. After the pandemic, MET employers regained a level of exports even higher than before the covid-crisis. MET companies still represent 45% of the R&D spend for the entire economy, and nearly 55% of total manufacturing employment.

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[NEW PRESIDENCY FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE EU](#)

On 1st January 2023, Sweden took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months in challenging times for industry. For its six month presidency, Sweden has proposed four main priorities which reflect the traditional positions that this country has always held in the EU: security - unity; resilience - competitiveness; prosperity - green and energy transition and democratic values and the rule of law - our foundation.

Ceemet proposes its analysis regarding chapter dedicated to “Employment, social policy, health care and consumer affairs.”

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TRILOGUE AGREEMENT ON PAY TRANSPARENCY DIRECTIVE

On 21 December 2022 the Member States approved the compromise text on the pay transparency Directive as agreed upon during the final trilogue meeting on 15 December 2022. Sharing the objective of gender equality, Ceemet members are deeply concerned by the increased administrative and financial burden following the requirements that are to be imposed on MET industries, particularly SMEs. This is especially worrying for companies in the context of the energy and economic crisis.

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UPDATED CEEMET POLICY PRIORITIES

The beginning of a New Year, 2023, is the right moment to update the policy priorities on our website. These priorities highlight the main dossiers we will focus on during the year and give a timely reminder of our positions.

MET ECONOMIC SITUATION

The MET industries are experiencing extremely challenging times. Many factors account for the current economic climate we are facing, however the war in Ukraine, the fallout from the COVID-19 Pandemic and an extremely tight labour market are paramount among them. Unfortunately, many of these challenges have been exacerbated by factors such as the green and digital transitions.

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SUPPLY CHAIN

Companies have a responsibility to take social, environmental and human right issues into account in addition to their economic and financial performance. Today, undoubtedly, European companies are world leading in monitoring supply chains' adherence to human rights and environmental protection.

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LABOUR MOBILITY

Labour mobility is essential for the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based (MET) industries. In a globalised, world cross-border supply and value chains have become the standard.

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SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Ceemet and industriAll Europe have since 2010 formally engaged in European sectoral social dialogue, supported by the European Commission. The sectoral social dialogue committee comprises members from both organisations.