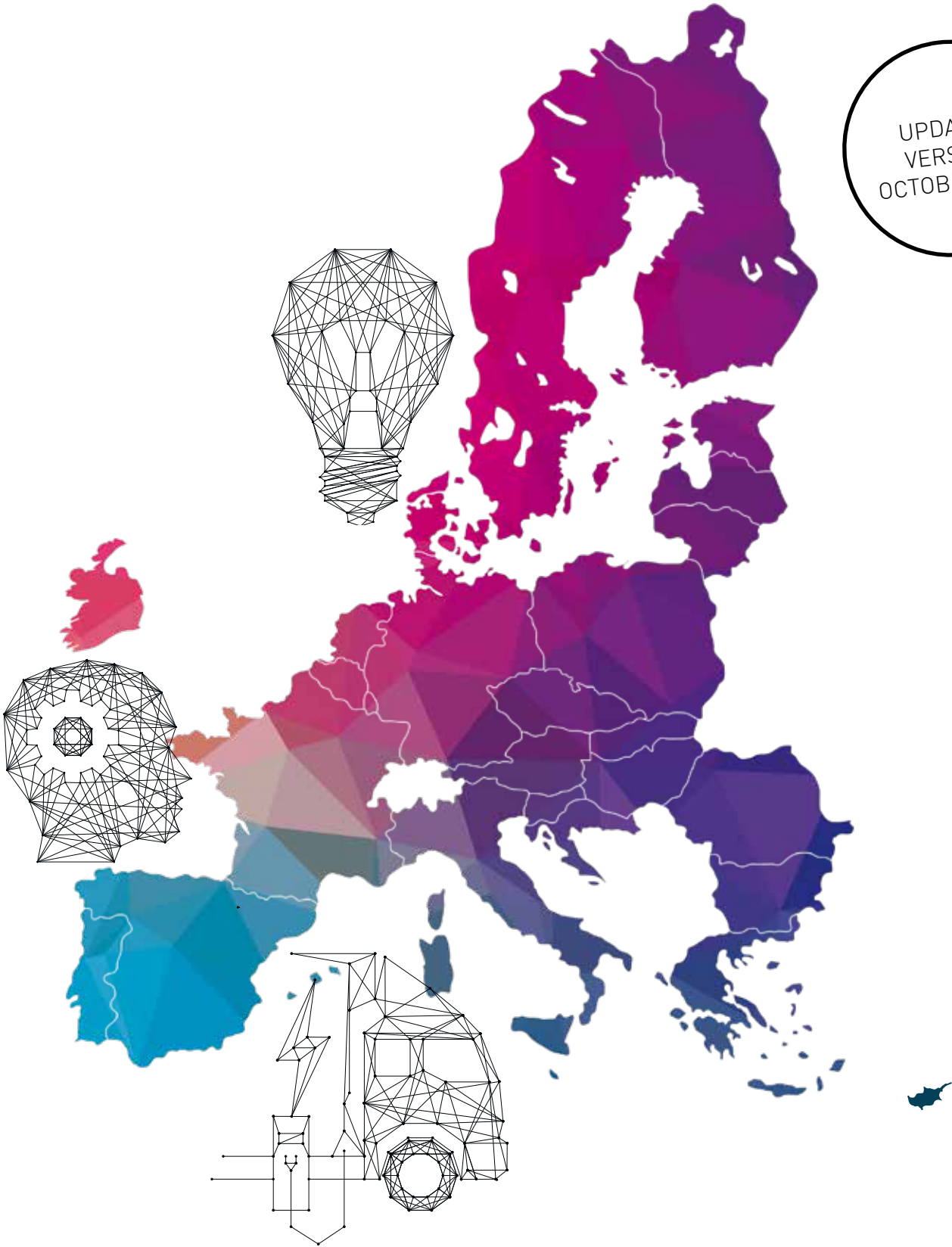


UPDATED
VERSION
OCTOBER 2024



AGENDA EU 2024+

for a resilient EU in a changing world

INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS



Strengthening the Single Market, increasing its resilience and enlargement

- » **Ensure the mobility of goods, workers and services** even in times of crisis and **realise the Digital Single Market**
- » **Improve the enforcement of existing Single Market rules** and make the legal framework more efficient, competitive and fit for the future
- » **Examine new service regulations in advance** to avoid internal market problems
- » **Strengthen the rule of law**, including in the economic field
- » **Develop the Schengen area** and eliminate existing restrictions

Reduce administrative burden and simplify EU legislation

- » **A comprehensive EU strategy for reducing administrative burden**, with a concrete implementation plan and a clear commitment from all sides: **reduce EU reporting obligations by 25%** as a first step (35% for SMEs), reduce the cumulative burden (e.g. certifications) and stress-test the EU acquis, eliminate duplications and contradictions, facilitate implementation (e.g. helpdesks)
- » **Systematic and improved application of the competitiveness check and the SME test** when drafting new EU legislation (impact assessment, legislative procedure) and in ex-post evaluations
- » **New EU legislation** must be designed to be **SME-friendly and practical (“Think Small First”)** and businesses should only have to submit information once (**“Once Only”**). Legislation must enhance competitiveness and must comply with trade policy requirements as well as the principles of proportionality, subsidiarity and the rule of law
- » **Reduce the administrative burden related to EU funding** and **avoid gold-plating** in national transposition

Actively shaping trade policy

- » **No isolation:** EU trade policy must continue to stand for openness and international trade and not for isolation and protectionism
- » **Pursue an EU trade policy** that is orientated towards its own interests and opposes the formation of a geo-economic bloc
- » **Eliminate trade imbalances** together with all partner countries
- » **Reform and strengthen the WTO:** agree and implement modern trade rules; agree trade facilitation for new technologies, environmental goods and services; restore an effective dispute settlement system; strengthen the agenda for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)
- » **Negotiate new trade and investment (protection) agreements**, accelerate ratifications
- » **Promote information** on the importance of international trade for prosperity, jobs and resilience
- » **Simplify rules of origin**
- » **Support SMEs:** Provide clear explanations of international agreements, simplify access to investment dispute resolution and make trade measures/agreements more SME-friendly
- » **Strengthen cooperation with third countries:** Promote digital partnership agreements and strategic partnerships on raw materials, further develop ‘resource diplomacy’ and establish Trade and Technology Councils (TTCs), especially with countries without trade agreements

Guarantee open strategic autonomy and security of supply

- » **Improve resilience, security and diversification of international supply and value chains** through partnerships with third countries or investments in strategic sectors
- » **Diversify** and secure **sources of important raw materials** and intermediate products via trade agreements
- » **Promote climate-friendly production** by initiating and developing markets for sustainable products
- » **Strengthen Europe as a production location** by examining and developing a ‘Made in EU investment bonus’
- » **Actively shape the European security and defence industry**
- » **Create a Level Playing Field:** Find a European response to economic stimulus programmes in other economic areas, ensure reciprocal access to third markets and combat third-country protectionist measures

SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION



Affordable and secure energy supply

- » **Secure business location for European (energy-intensive) industry and extraction of raw material**
- » **Provide strong incentives** instead of additional obligations for energy efficiency
- » **Ensure or rapidly expand the necessary infrastructure** (generation, transport, storage) in order to **avoid energy diversion and blackouts** and guarantee affordable energy for Europe throughout the energy transition
- » **Expand CO₂ and hydrogen transport infrastructure** and support consumers in switching to climate-neutral gases
- » **Establish a crisis mechanism** under EU law in order to temporarily decouple electricity and gas prices without jeopardising security of supply
- » **Promote energy partnerships** with other economic areas in order to reduce dependencies
- » **Expand and strengthen all production capacities**
- » **Ensure massive expansion of the networks**, especially of cross-border capacities
- » **Further diversify natural gas supply countries**, develop necessary infrastructure to enable connection to LNG terminals (DE, IT, HR)
- » **Simplify and accelerate permitting procedures**
- » **Targeted support for Net-Zero Industry Act projects** and associated value chains, with a rapid implementation process
- » **Ensure the competitiveness of energy prices** (e.g. by abolishing cross-border charges within the EU, such as the German gas storage levy)
- » To be able to transport sufficient quantities of energy within the EU in a resilient way in the future, **cross-border networks need to be made 'fit' through investment**
- » **Active diversification policy:** Joint presence as a strategic player in purchasing cooperations (natural gas, in the near future hydrogen, other substitutes such as methanol, ammonia etc.)
- » Consistently **advocate climate neutrality at a global level** and organise measures in a business-friendly way - for example through a globally valid CO₂ price, e.g. in the form of climate clubs
- » **Support companies in their transformation** towards a low-carbon economy
- » **Promote decarbonisation of transport through a technology-open approach** to achieving climate targets (e.g. alternative drive systems and transition technologies, charging and refuelling infrastructure)

Shift transport from third countries at the EU's external borders to low-CO₂ or CO₂-neutral modes of transport, reduce bureaucracy in rail transport

- » **Expand infrastructure in the areas of data, energy and transport**
- » **Legislation that is technology neutral** and allows for WTO-compliant and targeted support and subsidy policies

Feasible environmental legislation

- » **Adapt European Green Deal certification and verification requirements** in a way that they are feasible for businesses, **"repair" them legislatively, if necessary**

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



- » Fund the next **research framework programme (FP10)** with a **budget of at least 200 billion euros**
- » **Ensure European technological sovereignty:** Placing R&D at the heart of an ambitious European industrial policy, providing targeted support for key technologies from basic research to applied research and production, and expanding agreements for **global RTI cooperation**
- » **Implement a competition policy that encourages innovation**
- » **Enable intra-European innovation competition** as a basis for successful companies in global competition
- » **AI: Ensure value creation in Europe and strive for global leadership:** Expand dedicated initiatives for AI innovation rather than reallocating existing funds and focus on service- and innovation-friendly implementation of European AI rules
- » **Accelerate the digitalisation of enterprises (in particular SMEs):** including through formats to support the development of **digital skills** and the use of **data and AI solutions**, as well as by improving the visibility and further funding of the **European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)** with a focus on data
- » **Strengthen cyber and data security:** building a European expertise base and promoting international knowledge sharing
- » **Continue to pursue the digital and green transformation** of the economy as a strategic guideline for European RTI policy
- » **Further develop and interconnect research, technology and digital infrastructures** (including HPC, 6G, GAIA-X as a data ecosystem) in Europe

SECURE SKILLED LABOUR



- » **Introduce a strategy to secure skilled workers** by promoting intra-European mobility and focusing on vocational education and training (VET)
- » **Expand the EURES platform** - intensify recruitment activities for job and apprenticeship searches in the EU, launch an information campaign for companies
- » **Strengthen vocational education and training**
- » Finance vocational education and training **in close cooperation with the business** sector and with practical training components directly in companies to ensure the green transition of entrepreneurs and workers
- » **Skilled labour offensive in third countries:** establish skilled labour partnerships with countries where there is potential due to the labour and education market
- » **Position the EU as a destination for international talent** (promote the EU as a place to work)
- » Swiftly introduce the **talent pool** planned by the EU as a one-stop shop between employers, job-seekers and public actors
- » Improve immigration conditions for skilled workers from third countries: **simplify, digitalise and speed up procedures**
- » **Continue and expand the European University Programme** for university cooperation (incl. division of labour and increased profiling of universities)

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC FINANCES & CAPITAL MARKETS UNION



- » Redirect existing funds towards spending that creates **greater added value for the EU**
- » Only take on **new debt in exceptional cases**
- » **Use own resources to stimulate growth**
- » Ensure equality in data access and use in the **'open banking/finance' concept**
- » **Strengthen the risk capital market** as an important factor for innovation and securing competitiveness
- » Encourage **capital market investment in pensions**
- » **Secure credit financing** as the main external form of financing for SMEs and **preserve the diverse banking structure** in Europe
- » Encourage capital formation by **rebalancing debt and equity** and **increasing venture capital financing**
- » Pursue a **proportionate taxonomy**

INSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

- » **Maintain the principle of unanimity in sensitive areas**, e.g. taxation including energy taxes, social security and social protection, representation and collective defence of workers' and employers' interests, protection of workers in case of termination of employment contract, employment conditions of third-country nationals, management of water resources, choice of energy mix and sanctions
- » Pursue a **credible enlargement strategy** and communicate the EU's role in the **Western Balkan** region more effectively
- » Use **delegated acts** and implementing acts **more restrictively**
- » **Better coordinate** the strategy on foreign policy, taking into account the external and internal dimension and **involving all relevant policy areas** ("Directorates-General must coordinate with each other")

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