



European Round Table for Industry

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission

17 June 2022

Dear President,

I am delighted to send you the 2022 ERT Benchmarking Report on European Competitiveness and Industry. I am doing so on behalf of the

The EU rightfully sees itself as a pioneer in advancing the green and digital transitions. Yet our Benchmarking Report reveals a remarkable disconnect between those goals and the speed at which we are reaching them. More than that, it shows us how far ahead some others are. Taking our competitiveness for granted would be a big mistake. Our future prosperity and position in the world are at risk unless we improve on key aspects – and do so fast.

The ERT Benchmarking Report sheds light on the EU's position compared to other world regions across 64 different key performance indicators (KPIs) within five distinct themes, including critical infrastructure, innovation, the twin transitions, and international trade. On that basis, we identify areas where action is needed to maintain our long-term competitiveness and the prosperity for future generations of Europeans.

Key areas where action is urgently needed include the completion of the Single Market, increased investment in new technologies and the ability to drive and commercialise ground-breaking innovation.

Competitiveness is built on sound infrastructure. We cannot afford losing time in modernising our digital infrastructure, where our lagging behind on 5G will become increasingly costly as it holds back the digital transition of our economies as compared to our global competitors. On top, we need to modernise and strengthen our energy infrastructure and supply – a challenge that has been transformed into an imperative by recent events.

As Europe – and the world at large – enters what we fear will be a more difficult era, it is of crucial importance that we do so on a strong footing and in awareness of our remaining vulnerabilities – and with sound strategies to address them.

Let me highlight that ERT highly appreciates the actions of this European Commission. It has taken significant steps, amongst which are the EU Industrial Strategy, the Chips Act, and the European Green Deal to name but a few.

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Please consider this **report** our strong encouragement to do even more. Please also consider it an invitation to continue exchanging insights **with** our community. We much appreciate your readiness to engage and take leadership.

We are **of course** **entirely** at your disposal should you or your team wish to discuss any of our findings and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Annex: ERT highlights the gap between EU visions and realities as geopolitics puts competitiveness in **the** spotlight
European Competitiveness and Industry – Benchmarking Report 2022