

**From:** LAITENBERGER Johannes (CAB-BARROSO)  
**Sent:** Thursday 20 December 2012 18:59  
**To:** 'Niermann, Holger'  
**Subject:** RE: Gespräch im Bundeskanzleramt

 Ref. Ares(2013)704472 - 16/04/2013

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Niermann,

vielen Dank! Auch Ihnen ein frohes und gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und einen guten Start ins Jahr 2013.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Johannes Laitenberger

Head of Cabinet/Chef de cabinet/Kabinettchef/Chefe de gabinete  
President/Président/Präsident/Presidente José Manuel Barroso

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**From:** Niermann, Holger [<mailto:Holger.Niermann@bk.bund.de>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 20, 2012 11:34 AM  
**To:** LAITENBERGER Johannes (CAB-BARROSO)  
**Subject:** AW: Gespräch im Bundeskanzleramt

Sehr geehrter Herr Laitenberger,

wir haben jetzt die Bestätigung des französischen Präsidenten für das Gespräch mit Präsident Barroso und einer ERT-Delegation im Bundeskanzleramt. Eine schriftliche Einladung der Bundeskanzlerin an Präsident Barroso folgt im Januar.

Ich wünsche Ihnen gesegnete Weihnachten.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
Holger Niermann

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**Von:** Niermann, Holger  
**Gesendet:** Freitag, 30. November 2012 17:24  
**An:** 'Johannes.Laitenberger@ec.europa.eu'  
**Betreff:** AW: Gespräch im Bundeskanzleramt

Sehr geehrter Herr Laitenberger,

als Zwischennachricht: Ich habe noch keine Zusage aus Paris, melde mich, sobald der Termin steht.

Viele Grüße  
Holger Niermann

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**Von:** [Johannes.Laitenberger@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Johannes.Laitenberger@ec.europa.eu) [<mailto:Johannes.Laitenberger@ec.europa.eu>]

**Gesendet:** Mittwoch, 28. November 2012 22:46

**An:** Niermann, Holger

**Betreff:** Re: Gespräch im Bundeskanzleramt

Sehr geehrter Herr Dr. Niermann,

vielen Dank für Ihre Nachricht. Gerne bestätige ich, dass Präsident Barroso für den angefragten Termin am 18.3.2013 zur Verfügung steht. Mit guten Grüßen bin ich

Johannes Laitenberger  
Head of cabinet of  
Commission President Barroso  
Sent by mobile device

Am 28 nov. 2012 um 15:08 schrieb "Niermann, Holger" <[Holger.Niermann@bk.bund.de](mailto:Holger.Niermann@bk.bund.de)>:

Sehr geehrter Herr Laitenberger,

wie mit Ihrer Mitarbeiterin, Frau Kovalova, besprochen, wende ich mich mit meinem Anliegen direkt an Sie:

Die Bundeskanzlerin hatte Herrn Kommissionspräsidenten Barroso bei deren Telefonat am Sonntag zu einem Gespräch zu Fragen der Wettbewerbsfähigkeit der europäischen Industrie eingeladen, das sie hier im Bundeskanzleramt gemeinsam mit Herrn Barroso, Staatspräsident Hollande und Vertretern der europäischen Industrie (Delegation des European Roundtable of Industrialists) führen möchte.

Vor einer schriftlichen Einladung durch die Bundeskanzlerin würde ich gerne vorab klären, ob der Kalender von Präsident Barroso ein solches Treffen im Bundeskanzleramt am Montag, 18. März 2013, 19-21 Uhr (im Rahm eines Abendessens) erlauben würde.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen  
Holger Niermann

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**From:** Brian Ager <B.Ager@ert.eu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 13 March 2013 17:11  
**To:** 'lars-hendrik.roeller@bk.bund.de'; Emmanuel.Macron@elysee.fr; LAITENBERGER Johannes (CAB-BARROSO)  
**Cc:** Niermann, Holger; Kohnen, Clemens; DE RICHEMONT Laurence (CAB-BARROSO)  
**Subject:** ERT Meeting with Chancellor Merkel, President Hollande and President Barroso  
**Attachments:** 2013 March - ERT Meeting with A Merkel + JM Barroso + F Hollande - 18 March 2013 - Scoping Paper - FINAL.docx; 2013 March - ERT Meeting with A Merkel + JM Barroso + F Hollande - 18 March 2013 - ERT Delegation.docx

**Importance:** High

Dear All,

Ahead of next week's meeting on Competitiveness in Berlin, I am pleased to send you a "scoping" paper we have put together for the discussion.

I also attach a list giving the Members of the ERT Delegation.

Looking forward to a productive meeting,

Kind regards,

Brian Ager  
Secretary General



FINAL

## Restoring Europe's competitiveness, growth and employment

**Attendees:** Chancellor Angela Merkel (hosting), President François Hollande, President José Manuel Barroso and a delegation of ERT Members

**Format:** High-level dinner

**Date & place:** 18 March 2013, Federal Chancellery, Berlin

### CONTEXT

European employment and growth are in decline, with European industry losing ground in terms of competitiveness and innovation. There are serious policy issues hindering European industrial competitiveness both within Europe and globally. Industrial competitiveness must be at the core of European and national policies in order to optimise European industry's ability to help restore the path to sustainable growth and jobs. Policy makers need to incorporate the changes taking place in other regions of the world into their considerations.

### INTRODUCTION – Leif Johansson (*Chairman ERT, Chairman Ericsson*)

*An introductory presentation briefly describing general competitiveness issues faced by EU industry, against the backdrop of a changing global economic context.*

European industry needs improved framework conditions in which it can operate, invest, maintain and create jobs. This requires a coherent and predictable policy and regulatory framework, both at EU and Member State levels that has competitiveness as its central objective, which is not the case today. Incoherent and competing policies at EU and Member State level have reduced European industry's competitiveness in relative terms. New EU governance models are needed to align energy, environmental, social, innovation, competition and trade policies to boost rather than hinder the competitiveness of EU industry.

### DEBATE

*Four topics for discussion of around 30 minutes each. This would include a brief description of the issue, followed by supporting data or sectoral case studies by ERT Members and then discussion. For each issue ERT Members will recommend action for the short-term as well as recommendations to address structural changes in the medium to long term.*

## A COMPETITION POLICY FOR GROWTH

EU competition policy too often acts as a barrier for innovation or industry restructuring in the face of global market pressures. European companies are denied the economies of scale necessary to strengthen their competitiveness at global level resulting in EU assets, including intellectual property rights and manufacturing technology, being sold to international competitors. EU competition policy should enhance EU companies' ability to be competitive internationally.

- a. Presentation – Jacob Wallenberg (Chairman ERT Competition Policy Working Group, Chairman Investor AB)
- b. Case studies/data – ERT Members

### ERT recommendations:

- Fulfilment of the Single Market
- Review EU State aid rules to address structural shortcomings of the EU economy
- Maximise the level of innovation in the market
- Review relevant market definition for EU merger control
- Address unfair foreign State aid
- Review legality of EU State aid against the backdrop of global competition

## ENERGY IMPACTS ON INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

European manufacturing industry is at a comparative disadvantage, in particular with the US, as a result of an increasing gap in the total cost of energy and feedstock prices. This has a knock-on effect for the economy at large with investments and the number of manufacturing jobs declining. Action needs to be undertaken to ensure a sustainable and affordable energy supply for European companies.

- a. Presentation – Bruno Lafont (Chairman ERT Energy and Climate Change Working Group, Chairman and CEO Lafarge)
- b. Case studies/data – ERT Members

### ERT recommendations:

- Create a visible and predictable European policy framework supporting long term investment in energy and infrastructures
- Ensure deeper political and operational coordination between Member States in all matters related to energy mixes, quality of supply, and consequences on both energy costs and industrial competitiveness.
- Keep all energy options open, including shale gas and oil, in anticipation of technology developments.

## **CREATING FLEXIBLE LABOUR MARKETS AND RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS**

Innovative labour markets and education systems are necessary to Europe's industrial competitiveness. Flexible and productive labour markets combined with responsive education systems must be put into place quickly to achieve employment security, job-to-job transitions, for individuals. This must be underpinned with modern social security systems that promote active labour market participation while still providing an appropriate social safety net. Member States must take steps now to prevent further job losses and to establish the framework conditions so that new jobs can be created when growth returns.

- a. Presentation – Jim Snabe, Co-CEO SAP
- b. Case studies/data – ERT Members

### **ERT recommendations:**

- Adopt Employment Security as the model for the future
- Modernised job protection measures including reducing redundancy notice periods and severance payments in exchange for training for new jobs and job transition support which are more effective in getting individuals back to work.
- Link wage evolution to productivity improvements, international competitiveness and individual performance.
- Life-long learning needs to become a European mindset. Life-long learning is the best employment protection enabling individuals to prepare for job and career transitions in addition to up-skilling for their current job.
- Education and training providers should be required to partner with business and manufacturing.
- Increase the numbers of STEM graduates, implement dual-system vocational training, boost ICT in education, and implement entrepreneurial education in school curricula.

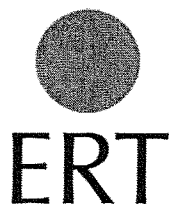
## EUROPE'S INDUSTRIAL INNOVATION CAPACITY

Research and innovation are key drivers for sustainable growth in Europe. However, the innovation financing gap with the US and Japan is increasing, while emerging economies are steadily improving their innovation capacity. In addition, Europe continues to underperform with respect to the successful commercialisation of European R&D.

- a. Presentation – Peter Löscher (Chairman ERT Competitiveness Working Group, President and CEO Siemens)
- b. Case studies/data – ERT Members

### ERT recommendations:

- Adequate funding for long-term basic research and/or enabling technologies
- Improve modalities for Public-Private Partnerships in EU funding programmes
- Use public procurement as a strategic tool to stimulate demand and markets for innovation
- Fulfilment of the Single Market
- Smart regulation
- Speed up and modernise the European standard-setting system
- Improve export opportunities for (innovative) European industries



**ERT Meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel,  
President François Hollande and  
President José Manuel Barroso**

**Berlin, 18 March 2013**

**Dinner**

**ERT Delegation**

Leif Johansson	Chairman, ERT Chairman, Ericsson
Peter Löscher	Vice-Chairman, ERT President & Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Chairman, ERT Competitiveness Working Group
Benoît Potier	Vice-Chairman, ERT Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Air Liquide
César Alierta	Chairman, Telefónica
Nils Andersen	Group CEO, A.P. Møller-Maersk
Svein Richard Brandtzaeg	President & CEO, Norsk Hydro
Gerhard Cromme	Chairman of the Supervisory Board, ThyssenKrupp Chairman, ERT Raw Materials Working Group
Bruno Lafont	Chairman & CEO, Lafarge Chairman, ERT Energy & Climate Change Working Group
René Obermann	Chief Executive Officer, Deutsche Telekom
Gerhard Roiss	CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board, OMV
Jim Snabe	Co-CEO, SAP
Carl-Henric Svanberg	Chairman, BP
Johannes Teyssen	Chairman & CEO, E.ON
Jacob Wallenberg	Chairman, Investor AB Chairman, ERT Competition Policy Working Group
Brian Ager	Secretary General, ERT





## Press Release – Communiqué de presse

**Keywords:** President / Président

**Rapid links:** [SPEECH/13/238](#)

# Statement by President Barroso ahead of a meeting with German Chancellor Merkel, French President Hollande and business leaders of the European Round Table of Industrialists on European competitiveness

### Extracts:

"We are here tonight, to discuss with Leif Johansson and other eminent business leaders about how Europe can grow and compete. How Europe can give hope to our young people. How we can generate the growth and jobs our citizens expect and deserve."

"I am deeply convinced that Europe has the willingness to do more and better. It has the brains to excel on a global scale. It has a model of society of which we can be proud and which is worth preserving and modernising. And it has also at the same time the modesty to accept that many things can be corrected and that we can go forward to complete many of our work."

"Progress is being made in a number of countries which are improving their current account balances and public deficits. But the crisis persists as we can see from the dire growth prospects and record levels in youth unemployment and also the most recent development concerning Cyprus."

"I am convinced – we need to hold our nerve and stay the course: the structural reforms that are underway in our Member States combined with the efforts to make our public finances sound and sustainable and also with targeted investment in areas like research and innovation, education, employment and infrastructure, all these efforts will pay off. Pursuing them is key to reinforce our competitiveness for the benefit of all."

"Growth indeed needs to come from increased competitiveness and productivity, not from debt creation. We have seen in the past that artificial growth fuelled by artificial debt, either public or private, is not a solution."

"Competitiveness is not an end in itself. It is essential to our economic success, for growth and jobs. It is a

about meeting the challenges our European model of society is facing. It is about defending our influence the world."

**The full statement is now available on RAPID: [SPEECH/13/238](#)**

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