

**Meeting between DSG Elisabeth Werner and [REDACTED] (WKÖ,  
Austrian Economic Chambers)**

**7 April 2021, 9h00 to 10h00**

**Participants:**

Commission:

Elisabeth Werner, Deputy Secretary-General

[REDACTED] SG.D1

WKÖ:

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

- As regards work on the national recovery and resilience plan, WKÖ flagged as important priority in their view investments in infrastructure, in particular in 5G. As regards sustainability, they consider very important to ensure that investments do not hamper technology neutrality, in particular as regards different mobility solutions and hydrogen.
- WKÖ sees a need to invest more in digital skills for SMEs. In particular, they would like to see a stronger focus in the national plan on the areas of vocational training, life-long learning and reskilling.
- On industrial policy and Green Deal, WKÖ highlighted the need to take sufficient measures to avoid carbon leakage. The EU should take into account in its increased decarbonisation ambition also the risk of weakening the competitiveness of its industry and of relocation of activity to third countries with the effect of carbon leakage. Long-term regulatory certainty is key for companies.
- As regards the update of the industrial strategy, WKÖ emphasized the importance of the need to learn lessons from the disruptions of the Single Market in the COVID crisis. The uncertainty about constantly changing national rules also places a high burden on companies. WKÖ would consider very important to device a European solution to avoid similar situations in the future.
- WKÖ would also support the notification obligation under the Services Directive.
- Ms. Werner referred to the ongoing internal work on the update of the industry strategy and the Fit-for-55 package and thanked WKÖ for the valuable input provided. She also referred to the announcement of a Single Market Emergency instrument and the close link the Commission sees between industrial and Single Market policies, as well as technological neutrality as guiding principle.