



Mr. Thierry Breton

COMMISSIONER - INTERNAL MARKET
European Commission

cab-breton-contact@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 2nd March 2020

Dear Commissioner,

In the coming days the European Commission will present its Industrial Strategy and we would like to draw your attention to the key role of the construction industry in many of the areas that will presumably be addressed.

FIEC (European Construction Industry Federation) represents 32 national federations from 28 different countries and through this membership companies of all sizes (from the small family business to the large international group) undertaking all type of construction activities (from small renovation works to large infrastructure projects).

In 2018 our industry represented 9% of the EU GDP, 29% of industrial employment (15 million workers) and more than 3 million SMEs.

In the light of the priorities of the European Commission and of the above facts, our industry clearly has an important role to play:

- in the achievement of the EU Green Deal objectives, in particular as regards the energy efficiency of buildings and the renovation wave, the circular economy and the forthcoming Climate Law;
- in the digital transition of the EU economy, which will require significant intervention in the roll out of smart mobility/smart infrastructure; linked to this a strong presence in innovation and research and development in particular in the future Horizon Europe programme;
- in the framework of SME policy;
- in the link it has as a major client of several other important industrial sectors (steel, machineries and products manufacturers, etc.); added to this, its own industrial transformation, making it ultimately an industry that has greater elements of manufacturing, e.g. of components for modular construction.

Furthermore, the on-going discussions on sustainable finance and the need to ensure fair competition in the Internal Market, in particular as regards the increasing presence of state owned companies from third countries, will significantly impact the way in which our industry will be able to fulfill its key role.

With this letter I kindly invite you to take these elements into account during the finalisation of the forthcoming Industrial Strategy. We look to you to ensure that the construction industry will have the pivotal role it warrants, in order to support you in the delivery of the strategy.

Our organisation and our members are ready to do what is required to help you achieve the ambitious challenges that we have in front of us.

Best regards,

Domenico Campogrande