



16 May 2013

EUROPEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT

CLOSING PLENARY ON 16 MAY FROM 17H15 TO 18H30:

AN EU INDUSTRY STRATEGY FOR GROWTH AND JOBS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

SPEECH BY PRESIDENT JÜRGEN THUMANN

Check against delivery

President Barroso.
Minister- President Peters.
Dear Hedge.
Ladies and Gentlemen.

President Barroso:

Your presence tonight, testifies to the renewed attention that the European Commission is paying to manufacturing industry.

I have no doubt that we can increase our industrial output to 20% by 2020. But we need to act now!

The European Union has adopted a fiscal compact and a growth compact, two essential steps to improve the investment climate in Europe.
We clearly need to work on both: growth and fiscal consolidation.

We have to address the legitimate concerns in public opinion but we must not give false hopes that there are quick fixes. Allowing Member States to use the room for manoeuvre within the EU fiscal framework is fine, provided that the path of public debt consolidation is maintained.

We have to explain better to citizens the longer term benefits of structural reforms.

We have to tell people that by eliminating only half of our gaps with OECD best practise in pro-competitiveness policies, our GDP growth could increase by 3.75% within 5 years.

But this requires the Commission to stop thinking that competitiveness and industrial policy are the exclusive competence of a small group of Commissioners. Reversing the decline of European industry requires to mobilise the entire college of Commissioners, as well as the Council and the European Parliament!



Dear President Barroso,

We have undoubtedly seen progress in this respect. But we are still too often faced with initiatives that undermine the goal of increasing the share of industry in GDP to 20% by 2020.

To help you in this difficult task, we have prepared proposals for an **Industrial Compact**. Our industrial compact highlights 5 key areas for immediate action.

First: Without reliable, affordable and climate-friendly energy there is no industrial economy.

Europe needs to reassess its approach to energy and climate policy. We need to get the balance right. .

Second: Improving access to finance is vital ! Our companies need sufficient “air to breath”

European financial market reforms need to balance safeguarding financial stability and financing needs of companies.

Third: Our internal and external trade policy agenda must be ambitious!

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership offers an unmatched growth spurt. We want the negotiations to move quickly and ambitiously.

Fourth: We need to secure the supply of raw material at competitive prices. Raw materials are the life-blood of EU industry. No more export restrictions and environmental rules that undermine or increase the cost of industrial raw materials!

And fifth: Education, education, education! The availability of a skilled workforce is essential if we want European industry to thrive. And a skilled workforce is the best guard of citizens against unemployment.

Dear President Barroso,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We will not be able to spend or borrow our way out of the crisis. But we can grow out of this crisis. Each job in the industrial sector is linked with at least two high quality jobs in the service sector. This illustrates the huge potential of a thriving European industry to overcome our current economic difficulties.

We count on you, President Barroso, to put in place the necessary framework conditions.

And we are confident that our Industrial Compact will provide you with the recipe for success!