

A Competitiveness Compass for the EU

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The Competitiveness Compass establishes competitiveness as one of the EU's overarching principles for action. Europe can only match its continent-sized competitors if EU and national policies are aligned around the same objectives and reinforce each other.

The Compass is composed of **three transformational imperatives to boost competitiveness** and five **horizontal enablers** necessary to underpin competitiveness across all sectors.

COMPETITIVENESS COMPASS



The three pillars

1. Closing the innovation gap

The first pillar is about driving productivity through innovation. The Commission will work to create a new dynamism for Europe's industrial structure.

How:

- Facilitate the establishment of start-ups and conditions for scaling up
- Create a deeper and efficient venture capital market
- Ease mobility and retention of talent
- Invest in state-of-the-art infrastructures
- Boost innovation and research



Flagship Actions Pillar 1

- Start-up and Scale-up Strategy
- 28th regime
- European Innovation Act
- European Research Area Act
- AI Factories Initiative, Apply AI, AI in Science, and Data Union Strategies
- EU Cloud and AI Development Act
- EU Quantum Strategy and a Quantum Act
- European Biotech Act and Bioeconomy Strategy
- Life Sciences Strategy
- Advanced Materials Act
- Space Act
- Review of the Horizontal Merger Control Guidelines
- Digital Networks Act

How:

- Integrate decarbonisation policies with industrial, economic, and trade policies
- Facilitate access to affordable energy
- Strengthen the business case for a clean transition
- Promote competitiveness of clean tech manufacturers



2. A joint roadmap for decarbonisation and competitiveness

This pillar is about integrating decarbonisation policies with industrial, competition, economic and trade policies. They are a powerful driver of growth when they are well integrated.

Flagship Actions Pillar 2

- Clean Industrial Deal and an Action Plan on Affordable Energy
- Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act
- Electrification Action Plan and European Grids Package
- New State Aid Framework
- Steel and metals action plan
- Chemicals industry package
- Strategic dialogue on the future of the European automotive industry and Industrial Action Plan
- Sustainable Transport Investment Plan
- European Port Strategy and Industrial Maritime Strategy
- High Speed Rail Plan
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Review
- Circular Economy Act
- Vision for Agriculture and Food
- Oceans Pact
- Amendment of the Climate Law

3. Reducing excessive dependencies and increasing security

This pillar is about integrating more tightly security and open strategic autonomy considerations in the EU economic policies. The security environment is a precondition for EU firms' economic success and competitiveness.

How:

- Develop policies, partnerships, and investments to ensure economic security, resilience, and strategic interests
- Strengthen defence industrial capabilities and support by pan-European cooperation
- Improve preparedness



Flagship Actions Pillar 3

- Conclude and implement ambitious trade agreements, Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships
- Trans-Mediterranean Energy and Clean Tech Cooperation initiative
- Joint purchasing platform for Critical Raw Minerals
- Revision of directives on Public Procurement
- White Paper on the Future of European Defence
- Preparedness Union Strategy
- Internal Security Strategy
- Critical Medicines Act
- European Climate Adaptation Plan
- Water Resilience Strategy



Horizontal enablers

The Compass identifies five horizontal enablers to reinforce competitiveness across all sectors:

1. Simplification
2. Removing barriers in the Single Market
3. Financing
4. Skills and quality jobs
5. Better coordination

Flagship Actions

- Omnibus simplification and definition of small mid-caps
- European Business Wallet
- Single Market Strategy
- Revision of the Standardisation Regulation
- Savings and Investments Union
- Next MFF, including Competitiveness Fund and a Competitiveness Coordination Tool
- Union of Skills
- Quality jobs roadmap
- Skills Portability Initiative