

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR MANUFACTURING

Manufacturing Priorities for the next Mandate

Wednesday 27 November 2013 (as at 27-11-13)

18h00 – 22h00 Dinner, Members' Salon, European Parliament

The Chair of the Panel, VICKY FORD MEP ECR Industry, Research & Energy Committee, will invite questions from leading Manufacturing representatives which she will select from the list which has been submitted, as below. She will then seek answers from the Panel of MEPs.

CHRISTIAN EHLER MEP EPP Industry, Research & Energy Committee
PAUL RUEBIG MEP EPP Industry, Research & Energy Committee
EDIT HERCZOG MEP S&D Industry, Research & Energy Committee
ANTHEA MCINTYRE MEP ECR Employment Committee
PHIL BENNION MEP ALDE Employment Committee
LINDA MCAVAN MEP S&D Environment Committee

Manufacturing Representatives will be asked to state their name and company. Time will restrict the number of questions taken.

Preparing for Growth

1. Last year, the European Commission formulated a 20% industrial share of the GDP target for industry. At that time, the share of industry was 15.5%. In the meantime it has fallen to a mere 15.1%. What are you suggesting to reverse this trend? **Mr Bonomi President Orgalime**
2. You are from the region in XX. I would like to know what initiatives has your local government undertaken, to make life easier for these companies that might an example for other regions or all over Europe?
3. In relation to that: in the next financial period, every region is encouraged to develop certain specific areas of manufacturing competence. For this "smart specialisation" there will be EU funds. What specialisation has your region chosen?

Energy, Resources, Environment

4. European companies pay considerably more for energy than their competitors in the USA. What are your ideas to bring these costs down? What are your ideas to make the European Single Energy Market a reality? **President TND Siemens CMV**
5. A level playing field in energy prices is the basis not only for the international competitiveness of European Industry but also a precondition for fair competition between enterprises within the EU. Given the strong political support of the European Council for an "urgent completion of a fully functioning and interconnected internal energy market" and the Heads of State

Governments intention to further advance this priority in their upcoming meeting in February: which actions will you suggest to ensure the creation of a truly integrated Internal Energy Market? Which actions will you take as Members of the European Parliament to counter the present divergence in Member States' energy policies? **Peter Witt, Siemens Brussels**

6. Competitive energy prices are a top priority for manufacturers in the EU, do you believe the current 2020 Climate & Energy Package, with three targets for carbon reduction, energy efficiency and renewable energy is the best cost approach for the EU's response to Climate Change?
7. The solutions to climate change and emissions reductions will not be the same in all Member States, therefore should the EU approach to emissions reductions be technology neutral?
8. The EU has taken a leadership position on emissions reduction, with top down targets, are there any lessons the EU can learn from our competitors?

Tomorrow`s Labour Markets

Additional question

Could you elaborate on your political party's social policy programme? What are the priorities? What should be done to support companies and employees when it comes to keeping/increasing the competitiveness of European companies, pushing for growth and ensuring employment?

More specifically, how can reforms on educational systems, labour market legislation and fiscal reforms help Members States to get back on track when it comes to growth, competitiveness and employment?

Mr Bona ABB Italy

9. What three things do you believe that a future European Parliament should do to encourage and support businesses in Europe to expand and employ more people? **Indra Hadelier, Germany**
10. Could you elaborate on your political party's social policy programme? What are the priorities? What should be done to support companies and employees when it comes to keeping/increasing the competitiveness of European companies, pushing for growth and ensuring employment? **Delphine Rudelli, France**
11. We have a question concerning "disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by companies". This is information concerning Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that companies may or may not carry out. The Commission proposes to regulate the initiatives (via the Accounting directives) that used to be of voluntary nature. What would the benefit be in obliging companies to report on the originally voluntary practices in your view? **Karoliina Rasi-Hedberg, CEEMET**
12. There is clear evidence that most Europeans believe that the EU generates too much red tape, especially in labour market legislation. How will a future European Parliament demonstrate to Europe's citizens that it is addressing the problem, and how will it reduce the cost of red tape? **Terry Scuoler, CEO EEF, UK**

13. There are high levels of youth employment in many EU Member States – do you agree that heavily regulated labour markets have contributed to this? **Uwe Combuechen, CEEMET**

14. In the next financial period, every region must specialize, as prescribed by the “smart specialization” concepts for EU funds. What specialization has your region chosen? How should R&D funding be coordinated between EU funds and regional funds in the next few years?

Better Regulation

15. Market surveillance has been identified as a key necessity, not only to make competition fair but also to protect Europe against counterfeit products and – in our sector counterfeit means dangerous - products. However, we see current discussions in the Parliament going in the wrong direction with additional, useless voluntary certification procedures and more bureaucracy. What are you planning to make market surveillance work?

16. We often witness politicians committing to better legislation. However, in recent years, the Parliament has appeared as being the main source for additional red tape or inappropriate legislation - Extraneous aspects in public tenders, additional certification schemes in the field of environment, biological production, labour in the third world, conflict-free minerals et cetera. This all adds up to existing burdens. How can the Parliament as a legislator become more growth and job friendly?

17. One of the current projects that might result in a lot of additional bureaucracy for our companies is the issue of “conflict minerals”. What are your ideas for a solution that can be applied easily for every company, especially SMEs?

Restructuring processes

18. How and on what issues can the EU define a frame of reference within each Members State, in its legislative autonomy; and can find solution and models of management of restructuring processes able to affirm a culture of social responsibility as homogenous as possible without further burden of enterprise? **Mr Bona, ABB Italy**

