

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 10/2023

Net-Zero Industry Act: Making the EU the home of clean technologies manufacturing and green jobs

The European Commission proposed the Net-Zero Industry Act to scale up manufacturing of clean technologies in the EU and make sure the Union is well-equipped for the clean-energy transition. This initiative was announced by President von der Leyen as a part of the Green Deal Industrial Plan: “The Act will strengthen the resilience and competitiveness of net-zero technologies manufacturing in the EU and make our energy system more secure and sustainable. It will create better conditions to set up net-zero projects in Europe and attract investments, with the aim that the Union's overall strategic net-zero technologies manufacturing capacity approaches or reaches at least 40% of the Union's deployment needs by 2030. This will accelerate the progress towards the EU's 2030 climate and energy targets and the transition to climate neutrality, while boosting the competitiveness of EU industry, creating quality jobs, and supporting the EU's efforts to become energy independent”: https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/COM_2023_161_1_EN_ACT_part1_v9.pdf

Data Act: MEPs back new rules for fair access to and use of industrial data

The “Data Act” aims to boost innovation by removing barriers obstructing access by consumers and businesses to data. The draft legislation would contribute to the development of new services, in particular in artificial intelligence where huge amounts of data are needed for algorithm training. It can also lead to better prices for after-sales services and repairs of connected devices. The volume of data generated by humans and machines is increasing exponentially and becoming a critical factor for innovation by businesses and by public authorities. This kind of data is said to have become “the new oil”. The data act establishes common rules governing the sharing of data generated by the use of connected products or related services to ensure fairness in data sharing contracts:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230310IPR77226/data-act-meps-back-new-rules-for-fair-access-to-and-use-of-industrial-data>

Decarbonisation of the automotive sector: Impact on employment

Answering a parliamentary question, the European Commission outlined: “The automotive sector represents 8.2% of EU Gross domestic product and employs millions of workers in Europe. The decarbonisation of the sector requires significant structural transformation, but we estimate a neutral effect on employment. This could lead to job losses of up to 750 000 jobs within the industry while at the same time the increased electrification of vehicles could lead to 800 000 additional jobs by 2025. Supporting reskilling and upskilling is key to ensure a successful transformation. At EU level, the Automotive Skills Alliance, under the Pact for Skills, supports workers in the sector develops skills intelligence and fosters dialogue. Its overall ambition is to upskill 5% of the workforce each year. Along with initiatives such as the European Batteries Alliance Academy, it will contribute to boost the competitiveness of the automotive sector in the EU. In addition, the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality encourages actions to support workers most affected by the transition. Moreover, the Green Deal Industrial Plan lays out initiatives to support European industry in the transition to net-zero technologies, including on skills, as well as proposals to simplify the regulatory environment and speed-up permitting. Further, funds to foster manufacturing capacity of clean technologies will be mobilised”: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-003878-ASW_EN.html