



**Draft contribution of the LXXIV COSAC,
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The EU's Competitiveness

1. COSAC welcomes the reports by Letta and Draghi and the ambitions of the European Competitiveness Compass to restore and boost the EU's long-term competitiveness. COSAC also welcomes the European Council conclusions of 23 October 2025, which reaffirm the EU's commitment to the competitiveness agenda
2. COSAC reaffirms the vital role of the Single Market in the development and prosperity of EU Member States and highlights the need to ensure a level playing field, cut red tape and eliminate barriers by reducing bureaucratic and regulatory burdens. COSAC emphasises in this regard the need for regulatory simplification and better regulation in the EU to ease the daily lives of European businesses, including SME's and public administrations.
3. COSAC underlines the need for Europe to close its innovation gap in critical technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technology, space technology and biotechnology, while maintaining a clear-eyed perspective on both the opportunities and challenges posed by AI. COSAC welcomes the European Commission's proposal to establish a European Competitiveness Fund to back the strategic technologies of tomorrow, to benefit the Single Market and to accelerate EU funding and catalyse private and public investment in areas such as clean transition and decarbonization, digital transition, health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy, security, defence, and space.
4. COSAC welcomes the EU's commitments to the green transition; while making the most of the opportunities it offers to strengthen European competitiveness. COSAC therefore encourages the EU to improve the competitiveness of European businesses by securing better access to clean and affordable energy. COSAC calls on the EU to advance an industrial policy that promotes green strengths,



investments, and technology developments across Europe in a way that reinforces Europe's competitive edge.

Ukraine

5. COSAC reiterates its earlier statements condemning Russia's unprovoked and illegal full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which has reached new heights of brutality and violence.
6. COSAC demands that the Russian Federation immediately and unconditionally withdraw its troops and military assets from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. Any initiative concerning Ukraine must be taken with Ukraine and in full compliance with the UN Charter as well as the key principles of Ukraine's Peace Formula.
7. COSAC stresses that strong military, civilian, economic and political support from the EU remains essential for Ukraine to continue its resistance against Russia's full-scale invasion.
8. COSAC welcomes the European Council's commitment to provide Ukraine with regular and predictable financial support in the long term. At the same time there is a pressing need for Ukraine to receive sufficient international financial support in 2026 and 2027, including for its military and defence efforts.
9. COSAC emphasises the need for continued pressure on Russia until it stops its aggression. COSAC reaffirms that representatives of Russian authorities and all those responsible for international crimes committed in or against Ukraine must be prosecuted and tried in accordance with the rules of international law. Russia must fully compensate for the damage it has caused to Ukraine, including using immobilised Russian sovereign assets to support Ukraine's defence.
10. COSAC welcomes the adoption of the 18th and the 19th packages of sanctions against Russia, including measures to disrupt the operations of Russia's 'shadow fleet', which is transporting oil despite the sanctions. COSAC calls for upholding these and further sanctions to put pressure on Russia until the independence, sovereignty and



territorial integrity of Ukraine have been restored within its internationally recognised borders.

11. COSAC calls on the EU and the Member States to give priority to delivering on promises already made and to provide robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine. This includes continuing to supply the military capability priorities requested by Ukraine, including contributions through the European Peace Facility (EPF), and the Clearing House Mechanism, the continuation of the Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM) and through the continued vital work of the EU Advisory Mission Ukraine (EUAM).
12. COSAC calls on the EU Member States to provide the support for Ukraine as efficiently as possible including through direct investments in the Ukrainian defence industry and through the establishment of Ukrainian defence production in EU Member States.
13. COSAC reiterates its earlier statements condemning Russia's illegal deportation of Ukrainian children in the strongest possible terms and calls for safe return of all Ukrainian children and other civilians unlawfully deported to Russia and Belarus.
14. COSAC underlines the importance of conducting interparliamentary solidarity visits to Ukraine, such as the visit by a delegation of representatives of the European Affairs Committees of EU national parliaments and the European Parliament on 27–28 September, which took place at the invitation of the Chair of the European Integration Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. COSAC reiterates its previous statement that it is committed to defending freedom and democracy in Europe, in line with the purpose of interparliamentary co-operation.

Security

15. In light of growing conflicts around the world, including in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa, COSAC considers it essential that the EU remains firmly committed to a rules-based multilateral order and to the defence of democratic values worldwide, within the framework of the United Nations. Peace, security, and stability can only be achieved through effective international cooperation. Promoting



human rights, democracy, and the rule of law remains a core obligation of the European Union.

16. COSAC finds it essential that Europe takes greater responsibility for its own security and strengthens its ability to defend itself by 2030 at the latest as a credible contribution to Euro-Atlantic security including through the effective protection and management of its external borders, and in full complementarity with the transatlantic cooperation within NATO and the defence interests and policies of EU Member States.
17. COSAC welcomes the European Commission's initiatives to bolster European defence capabilities, including the White Paper on the future of European Defence, the ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030, which the European Commission introduced in March 2025 to boost European defence spending and calls for the full implementation of the European Commission's Roadmap for European Defence Readiness 2030 presented on 16 October 2025.
18. COSAC strongly condemns Russia's persistent malicious hybrid activities, including destabilising operations at the EU-Belarusian borders and disinformation efforts, which seem to form part of broader, coordinated, and long-standing hybrid campaigns aimed at threatening and undermining the security, resilience and democratic foundations of the EU and its Member States. COSAC calls on Russia to cease its destabilising cyber and hybrid activities.
19. COSAC strongly condemns Russia's recent airspace violations in several Member States, which demonstrate the need for the EU to reinforce Europe's capability to respond effectively, autonomously and jointly to such threats at EU land, air and maritime borders. COSAC therefore welcomes the European Commission's proposal to focus on concrete European Readiness Flagship projects open to all Member States who want to participate, such as the European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield and the European Space Shield.
20. COSAC stresses the need to step up security at Europe's external borders and address the flow of irregular migrants. COSAC encourages the EU to develop new and innovative solutions to manage irregular migration and reduce arrivals into the EU. This includes



advancing negotiations on new legislation in the area of asylum and returns, revising the rules on safe third countries and further implementing the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum.

EU trade policy in an uncertain world

21. COSAC emphasises that the EU's trade policy must remain open, promoting increased market access and the diversification of supply chains. COSAC encourages the EU to uphold a strong commitment to a trade policy that protects and strengthens the rules-based trading system, including the multilateral framework of the WTO.
22. COSAC calls on the EU to pursue an ambitious and rule-based trade agenda with a strategic focus on advancing and concluding negotiations with partner countries.
23. COSAC underscores the need for a strong and constructive European cooperation with the United States in areas such as trade and investment, economic security, supply chains and technology. Ensuring EU unity in these negotiations is essential and should be based on the European Commission's firm and proportionate approach.
24. COSAC takes note of the 'Framework Agreement' between the United States and the European Union as a first step in a process that can be further expanded over time to cover additional areas and continue to improve market access and increase the trade and investment relationship between the United States and the European Union. The agreement with the US aims to restore the needed stability and predictability, which is vital for EU businesses exposed to volatility and uncertainty.

The Green Transition of a competitive European Agri-Food sector

25. COSAC underlines the need for a future Common Agricultural Policy that is sustainable, simple and market-oriented and boosts competitiveness, innovation and food security, while ensuring generational renewal as well as supporting climate and environmental measures and improving animal welfare.



26. COSAC takes note of the European Commission's proposal for a revision of the Common Agricultural Policy post 2027, which must provide a fair income for farmers, safe and affordable food for consumers and strong incentives to apply innovative, smart technologies as well as agroecological and carbon farming practices, and contribute to achieving the EU's climate and environmental objectives.
27. COSAC puts emphasis on preserving a future-proof common agricultural policy, with sufficient resources to promote a competitive, sustainable, and resilient agricultural sector that has access to natural resources, provides stronger food security, strengthens farmers' position in the supply chains and promotes continued product development, while ensuring a level playing field for all farmers in the EU.
28. Recalling the European Green Deal's goal of achieving at least 25% of total agricultural land under organic farming by 2030, COSAC encourages the EU to increase its support for organic farming, which contributes to biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation, soil health, and water quality while also creating profitable opportunities.
29. The transition must be fair and just, pragmatic, cost-effective and socially balanced.
30. COSAC acknowledges that bioeconomy and biosolutions hold significant potential in relation to the promotion of sustainable agricultural and food production and economic growth.
31. COSAC acknowledges the significance of an independent European protein supply, not just as raw material for the live-stock sector, but also for the development of plant-based foods and the diversification of supply sources and the transition towards a more sustainable and resilient agri-food sector. COSAC takes note of the "Green Card" from [xxx] regarding an action plan on plant-based foods and encourages the Commission to consider the proposal.

Sustainable Growth and Energy

32. COSAC stresses that the geopolitical situation has highlighted the importance of strengthening Europe's security of energy supply and progressing towards a Europe capable of providing clean energy at affordable prices for both citizens and businesses. COSAC welcomes



the European Commission's REPowerEU Roadmap and the subsequent proposal for an EU-wide phaseout of Russian energy imports, marking a decisive step towards an EU that is fully and permanently independent of Russian energy.

33. COSAC emphasises that an energy independent Europe relies on a well-functioning internal energy market, better-connected energy infrastructure, the transition away from fossil fuels, access to affordable clean energy, and energy efficiency and respect for the principle of technological neutrality. COSAC therefore welcomes the Commission's upcoming European Grids Package and the Affordable Energy Action Plan
34. COSAC highlights the importance of staying on track towards the EU's climate neutrality objectives, as accelerating the deployment of clean energy and improving energy efficiency will not only drive down energy costs but also contribute to energy autonomy, reduce the EU's dependency on fossil fuels and limit its exposure to their price volatility and at the same time improve European businesses' competitiveness in the global market place. ["In this context COSAC underlines the importance of implementing policies that deliver on the intermediate 2040-target on the path towards climate neutrality. "]

EU Enlargement and the Need for Internal Reforms

35. COSAC reiterates that EU enlargement is a geopolitical and strategic priority. The enlargement process must be in line with the Copenhagen Criteria and build on a merit-based approach, providing a clear and credible path to membership for candidate countries. COSAC advocates for sustained financial and political support to facilitate an effective implementation of the necessary reforms in candidate countries.
36. COSAC calls on the European Commission to explore possible avenues for a 'gradual' or 'staged approach' to full EU membership by granting certain benefits to candidate states conditional on their reform progress, while simultaneously respecting the interests of the current EU member states and the level-playing field on the Single Market.. COSAC underlines that the phasing-in of candidate countries into selected policy areas with limited rights and obligations is by



no means a substitute for or an alternative to fully fledged membership.

37. COSAC finds it essential that the EU continues its work on the internal reforms that are needed to prepare the EU and the EU-institutions properly for an enlarged Union. On this basis, COSAC encourages Member States to conduct a careful review of EU values, policies, budget and governance in order to identify the needed adjustments.
38. COSAC underlines that functioning democratic institutions and the protection of the EU's fundamental rights and the rule of law are fundamental preconditions for acceding the European Union and remain so also after a country has become member of the European Union. COSAC considers it essential for both candidate states and Member States to ensure strict compliance with these standards. These principles clearly distinguish the EU from autocratic regimes of the world. Considering recent geopolitical developments, the resilience of European democracies has become even more urgent. COSAC therefore calls on the EU-institutions to explore how to further strengthen the EU's existing tools to uphold fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law.
39. COSAC underlines that the allocation of EU funds both to Member States and candidate countries remains conditional upon the full respect for the rule of law as well as the EU's fundamental values and principles.