

# A European Industrial Policy

Preparing the ground for innovation

The spread of the COVID-19 virus has not only led to a global public health emergency, but will also lead to unprecedented shocks for the economy and employment in Europe and around the world. In response, European governments and the EU have launched unprecedented financial support packages to mitigate these shocks. However, more action is needed for a long-term recovery and growth of Europe's economy. Innovation will be a key driver in generating this growth and in creating the new European success stories of the future. Maintaining an industrial basis will be crucial for Europe's economy and the digital transformation is a cornerstone if the EU wants to be ready for the 21st century.

In a climate where society is expected to become increasingly risk-averse, liberals play an important role in pushing for innovative thinking and experimental approaches. With this hackathon, we want to compare different cultures of innovation in the industrial sector and in the digital age around Europe, identify success factors and bring together the innovators and policymakers who drive them. This will contribute to a better understanding of the drivers for innovation in Europe and better-informed economic policies.

## HACKATHON

Online event

**25 June 2021, 14:00 – 16:30 (CEST)**

## Programme

### **14:00** Opening remarks and welcome of the participants

Marco Mariani, Board Member, European Liberal Forum

### **14:15-15:45** From startup to big tech: Amending the Digital Agenda (Breakout Session I)

- Startups pigeonhole: how can we scale up startups to big tech companies within the EU?
- Don't use the phone while driving: how could Europe diversify its innovation without losing its hegemony in industries such as the automotive one?
- Too many people AFK: how can we promote digital innovation within the EU?

**Moderator:** [Prof. Martin Andersson](#), Board Member, Fores

#### **14:15-15:45 The next steam engine: Identifying industrial potential (Breakout Session II)**

- A not so Excellent Science: how can we connect R&D in Europe more to industry?
- Don't believe in angels: Business angels and venture capitals are the main financial source for innovative industrial projects in Europe. How should the EU and its Member States promote public financial initiatives such as Seed Funds?
- A switched-off education: how could the educational system and the academia adapt to the needs of the digital era?

**Moderator:** [Guillermo Passas Varo](#), EU Lawyer specialised in industry, innovation and IP Law

#### **16:00 Wrap up session: The future of European industry: A matter of vision**

This session will serve at the same time as a wrap up and as an opportunity to provide some vision to the solutions provided by participants. Actors will be required to picture two future scenarios in three future moments: post-Covid era, 2030 and 2050:

- A switched-off education: how could the educational system and the academia adapt to the needs of the digital era?
- Continuity scenario: the EU and the Member States have not implemented any reforms
- Innovative scenario: reforms actors suggested have been effectively implemented.

**Moderator:** [Guillermo Passas Varo](#), EU Lawyer specialised in industry, innovation and IP Law

#### **16:30 End of the event**

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