

S.O.S Italian and German Industry

Common Press Release by CONFAPI (Italy) and Der Mittelstand. BVMW e.V. (Germany)

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It is just a little more than one month since our common European Confederation of SME and Mid-Caps Associations has launched its **CALL TO ACTION “S.O.S. European Industry”**, signed also by us, and observing what has happened in the world in this short period of time until today, we feel the strong need to invoke the Italian Prime Minister, Ms. Giorgia Meloni, and the German Chancellor, Mr. Friedrich Merz, to **demonstrate Unity between our countries and act together on national and European levels to safeguard our common wealth**, which is produced by the two largest manufacturing systems in Europe, represented by the Italian Small and Medium-sized Private Industries and by the German Mittelstand.

In the wake of a new World Order catalysed by the US, China and Russia, Europe must stand strong and to do what it needs to focus not only on a clearly autonomous political action, but also on its **economic strength**.

This means now to act for

- The **provisional adoption** of the Mercosur agreement, as soon as possible with the interinal Trade Agreement (iTA) part of the treaty – making sure that **reciprocity of rules** for all goods exchanged between the two blocks will be **fully guaranteed** – and to **negotiate further Free Trade Agreements** with other key players in the world like **India**, showing that Europe is able to open new markets to its industry when it is threatened with unjustified customs and is a victim of unfair competition.
- **Fostering our competitiveness** by **reducing bureaucratic burden** on national and European levels, where especially **technological neutrality** has to be safeguarded, **innovation** has to be achieved with, for and by SME and Mid-Caps, while self-defeating **legislation**, unjustified **reporting** and economy-hostile **rules** must be made **more business-friendly, simplified**, and where possible also **repealed**.
- Promoting **European preference** wherever possible for all sectors, when European tax payers' money – mainly SME and Mid-Caps with seat in Europe – is spent to buy goods and services.
- A **clear and fast reduction of energy prices** in Europe, with all means possible, also by reforming elements of the Green Deal like the European Emission Trading System, in order to achieve climate neutrality with a market-oriented approach.

The European *Mittelstand* is the key to the survival of our European economy, of our European social model and of the European Union itself. Save our European Industry! #SOSIndustrEU

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