

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consetetur sadipscing elitr, sed diam nonumy eirmod tempor invidunt ut labore et dolore magna aliquyam erat, sed diam voluptua. At vero eos et accusam et justo duo dolores et ea rebum.

Click here to view in [Browser](#).



Dear colleagues!

On 13 September 2023, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen gave the annual State of the Union Address where she presented the main priorities as well as new initiatives and proposals to the European Parliament and the European people while elaborating on successes and achievements of the past years. It served as an update on her 2019 programme for a green, digital and geopolitical Europe in the face of challenges of recent years.

From the engineering perspective the

speech was extraordinary, because it explicitly stressed the role of the Engineers in the Green Deal. This is an important signal that our message was heard by the European Commission and that the engineers are regarded as major players in the green transition . We need to fill this role in our daily professional lives as well as in the political dialogue where independent and high-quality expertise is badly required – now more than ever.

I look forward to keeping on doing this together with all of you,

Klaus Thürriedl

The speech

President Von der Leyen stressed that a green transition is only possible from a multi-sectoral perspective that is built on cooperation and innovation. One particularly important piece of framework to realise this change has been the European Green Deal. This package has been vital in moving towards modernisation and decarbonisation, sustainable market competition and European independence. She also stated:

“The European Green Deal provides the necessary frame, incentives, and investment – but it is the people, the inventors, the engineers who develop the solutions.”

It has been made clear that the engineer’s role cannot be underestimated in the green transition, particularly when it comes to problem-solving and realising these plans.



© European Union 2023 - Source : EP

President Von der Leyen assured in her speech that the engineering sector will continuously be supported by the European Union through fundings and effective framework. Examples for this are successes on clean Steel factories (which have risen from 0 to 38 in the past years), EU investment in clean hydrogen, the Critical Raw Materials Act as well as the Net-Zero Industry Act.

It was also announced that the European Commission would hold a number of Clean Transition Dialogues with stakeholders of the industry who can give insight into the future of the sector.

A focus was also put on wind power under support of the European Wind Power Package, ensuring improvements of auction systems across the EU. This extends to the development of batteries for electric vehicles and sustainable steel production.

“And this is why, Honourable Members, as we enter the next phase of the European Green Deal, one thing will never change. We will keep supporting European industry throughout this transition.”

The European Union has also launched initiatives to ensure the existence of SMEs, particularly the appointment of an EU SME envoy who would report directly to the European Commission. All new legislation will also have to undergo a competitiveness check by an independent board. Italian economist and academic Mario Draghi will develop a report on the future of European competitiveness, based on which new steps may be developed. It was also announced that the European Commission will put forth a new legislative proposal towards reducing reporting obligations for SMEs by 25%. President Von der Leyen also presented STEP platform which was created to steer EU funds into investment for the development of clean tech.

“[A]s the world around us changes faster than ever, social partners must again be at the heart of our future.”

With this line, the European Union also expressed the vitality of social partners in the face of challenges and in keeping the social dialogue upright. This is indispensable when making business easier and making the labour market more accessible.

President Von der Leyen as part of her programme also spoke in length on the future of AI and general information on the European digital transition. She addressed the three pillars which are essential when building a global framework on AI: guardrails, governance and guiding innovation.

With the AI Act, the EU is now at the forefront globally of finding solutions to difficult questions around Artificial Intelligence and can ensure safe and reliable development of these tools.

Finally, President Von der Leyen gave importance to including minority groups and addressing the young generation in these issues. Access to the labour market often excludes women and minority groups, which is a concern that has to be targeted from several perspectives. She has made clear that challenges of equality are of continuous importance during her presidency, while also being proud of achievements of the past years. Particularly legislative framework such as the Women on Boards Directive, EU accession to the Istanbul Convention and the Directive on Pay Transparency will greatly benefit women and are important measures

in moving towards equality.

President Ursula Von Der Leyen also expressed her continuous support of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people, underlining the importance of a joint approach against threats to European democracy and safety.

The full speech can be found [here](#), translations into all official European languages are available.

Unsubscrirbe from Newsletter

Click [here](#) if you want to unsubscribe from this Newsletter.

Imprint:
ECEC AISBL
Coudenberg 70
1000 Brussels
Belgium
683. 843.169