

The challenge of environmental sustainability

The task of redefining Europe's economic and social model is further complicated by the challenge of environmental sustainability. It will not only require the EU to rethink its spatial planning, cities and transport, education and consumption habits, but also its growth model. A 'New Industrial Strategy' is needed to champion new green technologies and sustainable industrial processes. In support of this, the EU should:

- Pass a European Innovation Act simplifying funding opportunities and empower the [European Institute for Innovation and Technology](#) to set up innovative joint programmes across the EU;
- Establish a Small Business Research initiative giving innovative, young and small businesses access to public procurement markets;
- Improve the added value of the agriculture, farming and food industries, whilst reducing their negative environmental impacts by increasing access to new technologies and strengthening consumer awareness;
- Create or label a series of European Research Centres within the European Institute for Technology, focusing on renewable energy, energy efficiency, ICT for sustainable development and transportation networks, biotechnology and nanotechnologies;
- Adopt a low-carbon transition strategy to set a vision for a low carbon economy in 2030, and the actions required by the EU and Member States to make this a reality.