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- Chips Act -the EU's plan to overcome semiconductor shortage.
- MEPs nominated to new public health subcommittee
- Parliament sets up new public health subcommittee.
- CEPLIS and EUROCADRES' common Conference on Gender Equality
- News from our members.

CHIPS ACT - THE EU'S PLAN TO OVERCOME SEMICONDUCTOR SHORTAGE

On Wednesday 15th February 2023, this article on how the European Union plans to fight semiconductor shortage by boosting internal production was published in the European Newsroom.

Since late 2020, there has been an unprecedented shortage of semiconductors around the globe. The semiconductor supply chain is very complex and vulnerable to events such as the Covid-19 outbreak. The industry is finding it difficult to recover from the shock caused by the pandemic. The EU is taking action to secure its supply. The **European Chips Act** aims to increase the production of semiconductors in Europe. The European Parliament has approved its position on the proposed legislation and is ready for negotiations with EU governments.

In February 2023, **MEPs also adopted the Chips Joint Undertaking** – an investment tool whose objective is to support the growth of the sector and promote EU leadership in this field in the mid to long term.

Microchips are also crucial for technologies driving the **digital transformation**, such as artificial intelligence, low power computing, 5G/6G communications, as well as the Internet of Things and edge, cloud and high-performance computing platforms.

The production of microchips relies on an extremely complex and interdependent supply chain in which countries all over the world participate. A large semiconductors firm may rely on as many as 16,000 highly specialised suppliers located in different countries. **This makes the global supply chain vulnerable.** It is easily affected by global geopolitical challenges. This was made particularly obvious by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recent developments like the war in **Ukraine** have triggered additional concerns for the chips sector. Other events such as fires and droughts affected large manufacturing plants and worsened the shortage crisis. The current microchip shortage is likely to continue throughout 2023, as most solutions have long lead times. For example, it takes two to three years to build a new chip-making factory.

On average, nearly 80% of suppliers to European firms operating in the semiconductor industry are headquartered outside the EU. By adopting the Chips Act, **the EU wishes to reinforce its capabilities in semiconductor manufacturing to ensure future competitiveness and maintain its technological leadership and security of supply.** Today the share of the EU in global production capacity is below 10%. The proposed legislation aims to increase this share to 20%.

The measures under the Chips Act will be primarily implemented through the Chips Joint Undertaking, an EU public-private partnership under the Horizon Europe programme. The EU wishes to pool about €11 billion from EU funding, EU countries, partner countries and the private sector to strengthen existing research, development and innovation.



For further information, click [here](#).

MEPS NOMINATED TO NEW PUBLIC HEALTH SUBCOMMITTEE

The names of members who will be sitting on the new Subcommittee on Public Health (SANT) were announced in plenary on Wednesday morning.

MEPs voted during the February 2023 plenary session to set up a subcommittee on public health, under the umbrella of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI).

The subcommittee will have 30 members. The procedure to nominate MEPs to a committee is set out in Rule 209 of the EP rules of procedure. According to its approved mandate, the public health subcommittee will deal with programmes and specific actions in the field of public health, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, health aspects of bioterrorism, the European Medicines Agency, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The ENVI committee remains responsible for examining and voting on legislative proposals.

PPE:

ARŁUKOWICZ Bartosz
BUȘOI Cristian-Silviu
COLIN-OESTERLÉ Nathalie
FRANSSEN Cindy
KYMPOUROPOULOS Stelios
LIESE Peter MONTSERRAT Dolors

S&D :

CERDAS Sara
CIUHODARU Tudor
FRITZON Helène
GONZÁLEZ CASARES Nicolás
MORETTI Alessandra
WÖLKEN Tiemo

Renew :

GLÜCK Andreas
JOVEVA Irena
SOLÍS PÉREZ Susana
TRILLET-LENOIR Véronique

Verts/ALE :

METZ Tilly
RIVASI Michèle
ȘTEFĂNUȚĂ Nicolae

ECR :

FIOCCHI Pietro
KARSKI Karol
KOPCIŃSKA Joanna

ID :

BALDASSARRE Simona
BEIGNEUX Aurélia
LIMMER Sylvia

La Gauche :

KONEČNÁ Kateřina
MATIAS Marisa

NI :

DANZÌ Maria Angela
TÓTH Edina

PARLIAMENT SETS UP NEW PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

On Tuesday 14th February 2023, **MEPs agreed to create a new permanent subcommittee for public health matters**. This short article was published in the European Parliament's webpage on the topic.

Plenary set out the responsibilities and numerical strength of the new Public Health subcommittee, established **under the umbrella of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)**.

The subcommittee will comprise 30 members. It will deal with programmes and specific actions in the field of public health, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, health aspects of bioterrorism, the European Medicines Agency, and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. The ENVI committee remains responsible for examining and voting on legislative proposals.

Subcommittees may be formed at the request of an already established standing committee, in the interests of this committee's work and subject to prior authorisation by the Conference of Presidents. The area of responsibility of the subcommittee will be clearly defined in its mandate. The term of office of a subcommittee is open-ended. Special committees, committees of inquiry and subcommittees cannot adopt legislative texts. The list of members will be announced in a subsequent plenary session.



For further information, click [here](#).

CEPLIS AND EUROCADRES' COMMON CONFERENCE ON GENDER EQUALITY

Empty Promises or steady progress ?

Evaluating our success in delivering Gender Equality

The 2nd of March, CEPLIS and the Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff (EUROCADRES) held a common hybrid event within the premises of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) with the objective of evaluating the progress of the European Union on achieving true Gender Equality in the workplace. Multiple experts were invited to intervene and debate throughout the two panels of the day.

After the welcome address by our President, Mr. Gaetano Stella and the President of Eurocadres, Ms. Nayla Glaise, in which they went over the work done by both organisations towards Gender Equality, the audience had the opportunity to learn more about the Opinion SOC/723 of the EESC “*Gender lens investing as a way to improve gender equality in the European Union*”, thanks to its rapporteur and member of the Committee, Ms. Maria Nikolopoulou. Latter in the event, we also had the opportunity to debate with Ms. Evin Incir, MEP and member of the Committee on Justice within the European Parliament, and Ms. Radka Maxova, MEP and Vice-chair of the Committee on Women’s Right and Gender Equality. The importance of a gender-based balance and the necessity to consider Gender Equality as a horizontal element to include in all EU legislation were underlined by the MEPs, as well as their current work within the Parliament towards real equality.



Gaetano Stella, President of CEPLIS

The first panel of the event focused on the work done by the European Institutions to secure Gender Equality. The audience actively participated in a discussion animated by Ms. Konstantina Vardaramatou, Secretary General of the European Women’s Lobby, Mr. Stecy Yghemonos, Executive Director at Eurocarers, and Ms. Susanna Pisano, lawyer and expert on Gender Equality from Confprofessioni, who proposed to capitalize on the best practices and actions experienced in Italy and extend the model in the whole European Union.



Nayla Glaise, President of Eurocadres

The purpose of the second debate was to identify the work that remains to be done to assure that no woman is left behind. Mr. Haydn Hammersley from the European Disability Forum, called for horizontal equal treatment, and Ms. Una Krutova, our colleague from the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors (CLGE), insisted on education to avoid inequality in the workplace.

The panels were respectively chaired by Eurocadres’ President, Ms. Glaise, and our colleague and representative of Union Profesional, Ms. Cordoba.

The outcomes of this meeting presented by **our director General, Prof. Theodoros Koutroubas and Ms. Glaise** offered several reasons for optimism, and even more reasons to intensify our efforts to ensure that no talent gets wasted, and that gender stops to constitute an obstacle to exercise professions that can benefit the citizens and the economy at large. Century-old mentalities, created by ignorance and prejudice, and integrated in our way of thinking through repetition, continue to stand in the way. The experts were unanimous to note that lots need to be done at the level of education, starting from kinder-gardens and going all the way up to academia, but also at the level of awareness raising among parents and parents to be, and confidence boosting among girls and women of all ages.



Measures to tackle gender-based violence, physical and verbal, at the work level, to guarantee equal salaries for equal work, to ensure that gender would not be used as a reason to halt promotions, to change the gender-based mentalities on care-provision, must be strengthened and intensified. Their effective application should be a constant task of our administrations and decision-making structures.

CEPLIS is very proud to have contributed to the development of new ideas and ways to tackle Gender Inequality. Both organisations have agreed to continue bolstering the awareness regarding this issue.

You may watch the event [here](#)



NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER

On February 15, 2023 EFPA contributed to the **Call for Evidence ‘A comprehensive approach for mental health’ launched by the European Commission on January 18 2023.**

EFPA welcomed a recognition of the importance of ensuring that EU and national policies proactively promote good mental health, as well as work to prevent, mitigate and respond to mental health challenges. EFPA appreciated the opportunity offered by the Commission to help develop this comprehensive approach.

Specifically, the seven priorities outlined in the reply are offered as concrete ways to ensure sustained and meaningful EU-level action.

- **Mental health** should feature in all EU policies, be properly funded (e.g., through EU4Health), and be properly resourced with dedicated unit staff at the European Commission.
- An **EU Year for Mental Health** could support a wider public knowledge of the impact of various policies on mental health and be part and parcel of any future initiative.
- **Mental health should be a core part of any policy response to current and future societal crises.**
- EFPA supports **WHO’s call for more community-orientated mental health services** and urges the Commission to ensure that a future initiative stimulates EU Member States to exchange ideas and good practice, to learn from each other on how to adapt their mental health service delivery.
- Given the central place of work in the lives of European citizens and the importance of economic wellbeing to social wellbeing, **mental health in the workplace** should be a focus of the future initiative and should be enshrined in health and safety regulations to ensure robust implementation at the national level.
- Mental health is indivisible from the challenge of **climate change** and support programmes for children and young people especially should be introduced.
- The **training of mental health practitioners should be based on a recognised standard**, properly funded to ensure enough practitioners to meet citizens’ needs, and their practice properly regulated with requirements to keep up to date through continuing professional development.
- European citizens should have **equal access** to the appropriate mental healthcare and healthcare professionals and should be engaged as partners and stakeholders in how mental health and wellbeing is assured.

These priorities would ideally become workstreams of a coherent strategy, which could be launched and effectively bound together in the form of an EU Year for Mental Health.



For further information, visit EFPA's website [here](#).

NEWS FROM OUR MEMBER

After several years of efforts towards the establishment of a Regulatory Body (Ordre), the Belgian Chamber of Representatives has adopted a law on the 9th of February 2023, creating a public law body named: Ordre Belge des Géomètres-Experts / Belgische Orde van Landmeters-Experten.

Our Vice-President, Jean-Yves Pirlot (CLGE) has played a major role in this collective effort. CEPLIS shares his satisfaction and that of all the Belgian Surveyor Colleagues.

