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THE ITALIAN SYSTEM AND THE PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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**THE ITALIAN SYSTEM,
INDUSTRY AND EUROPEAN
TECHNOLOGICAL
SOVEREIGNTY**

prepared by



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Italy ranks first in the European Union for patents in technologies considered strategic by the European Commission, including microelectronics, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and robotics. A survey by the Tagliacarne study centre shows that there are approximately 5,000 companies (limited companies) with patents in strategic technologies: 35 per 10,000 companies, well above the European average (21). The best in the EU are Germany (59), Austria (52), and Finland (46).

Net zero innovation

There are approximately 1,400 companies (corporations) with patents in strategic Net-Zero technologies for reducing CO2 emissions, or 9 per 10,000 companies, above the European average (7): 5th place in the EU, behind only Germany (20), Austria (18), Finland (13), and Denmark (11).

As regards artificial intelligence, 592 companies hold patents related to these technologies, mainly concentrated in the North-West (44.3% of the Italian total), particularly in Lombardy (30.7% of the Italian total).

What companies demand from the EU

The Tagliacarne Institute's surveys also reveal what companies are demanding of the European Union. Trade policy is a key issue for more than one in five companies (21.4%): according to these companies, the European Union should strengthen its trade policy, protecting European companies against unfair competition and protectionism from other countries.

But common tax policies, easing of environmental and defence and security regulations are also called for. Only 2.6% of businesses are calling on the EU to complete the European Single Market for Capital, despite the fact that this move could free up a huge amount of resources for business investment.

Challenges and opportunities for the Italian System

In this context, Italy has significant strengths, but also structural criticalities related to company size, market fragmentation, and access to capital.

The challenge is to find ways to strengthen the Italian System contribution to European industrial priorities by enhancing innovation, fostering private and public investment, and aligning business strategies with European industrial policies.