



Annex to: A call for the recognition of Industrial Clusters in the European Recovery Initiatives

The European Clusters Alliance calls for the recognition of clusters as a strategic agent for the drafting and implementation of the European recovery initiatives. We call to **reinforce cluster's support from the European Commission**, and cluster's presence and participation in the different stages of the initiatives. We believe that clusters bring additional value to the drafting and implementation of the recovery initiatives.

Clusters matter. Why?

According to the report "European Panorama of Clusters and Industrial Change", European clusters account for 61.8 million jobs, equivalent to 23.4% of total European employment (EOCIC European Panorama of Clusters and Industrial Change 2020).

Clusters drive growth in Europe through their high number of innovative and high-growth firms, showing top performance on key social and business competitive indicators, such as 13.5% higher average wage and 77% more high-growth firms in specialized clusters than in other environments without cluster support. They should be considered as entrepreneurial, dynamic, and regional ecosystems of excellence for their industries and key competences.

A cluster's most common mission is to facilitate and maintain strong, close, and trust-based collaborative relations between companies and research organizations, helping public authorities to strengthen the competitiveness and prosperity of their regions.

Clusters, by bringing together SMEs, encourage innovation, job creation, international trademarks and patents.

About the European Clusters Alliance

The European Clusters Alliance is a bottom-up initiative that gathers 13 National Cluster Associations and several European international cluster networks representing more than 740 clusters, where 134,000 of our most innovative businesses collaborate with thousands of universities, research centers and public institutions to boost their competitiveness.

Our mission is to be their common voice, facilitating connections and opportunities to meet the challenges they face. To find solutions for the COVID-19 crisis, the European Clusters Alliance initiated the creation of a high-level expert group which has been meeting on a daily basis since March 2020: the European



Source: [EOCIC European Panorama of Clusters and Industrial Change 2019](#)



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CLUSTERS ALLIANCE

Alliance Against Coronavirus (EAAC). This alliance has been deeply involved in detecting COVID-related disruptions in European value chains, proposing actions to make them more resilient, and sharing good practices on how to implement the green and digital transition.

Throughout the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027)
and Next Generation EU (2021-2023),

clusters are a strategic strength and asset for the European institutions
to provide decisive innovative solutions to the societal challenges we face:

changing economies

changing climate

changing attitudes

