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European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Advanced materials for industrial leadership  
- *Information from the Commission*

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission on the “*Advanced materials for industrial leadership*” with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 8 December 2023.

## Advanced materials for industrial leadership

### Information from the Commission

The Commission Work Programme for 2024 announces a **new initiative on Advanced Materials for industrial leadership**, aiming to accelerate the development of safe, sustainable and circular advanced materials, and their industrial uptake for the benefit of the green and digital transition. The new initiative will contribute to the objectives of major EU initiatives recently launched, like the Green Deal Industrial Plan, Chips Act, Critical Raw Materials Act, Net Zero Industry Act, Repower EU – and others.

Advanced materials are designed to achieve a superior performance or offer special functional attributes of a product. They are a **key enabler of the green and digital transition** for a wide range of applications, including electronics, transport, energy or construction. For example, LED lighting based on gallium-based semiconductors, leading to 90% of energy savings; or sodium-based batteries (still under development) providing a far cheaper alternative to lithium and a more abundant material.

The overall objective of the Advanced Materials initiative is to **support innovative EU companies to boost their competitiveness for the green and digital transition**. To that end it will mobilise EU, national, regional and private R&I investments commensurate with the increasing international investments.

The initiative builds on a strong **stakeholder engagement** that started with the [Materials 2030 Manifesto](#), setting a clear vision for the European materials ecosystem, which triggered a strong echo amongst stakeholders.

In order to secure R&I investment levels commensurate with the opportunities arising from new materials, the Commission will also work a **Coordinated Plan of Action with Member States and industry**. The Communication will sketch out the main priorities for action at EU and national level as a basis for agreeing on such a plan in the months after the adoption of the Communication. The Commission therefore **invites Member States to further engage on the identification of national priorities** on research and innovation and industrial needs in advanced materials relevant for the industrial green and digital transition, as well as on **research and innovation areas where the Commission and Member States should join forces**.

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