



## **AEGIS Europe welcomes the agreement on the International Procurement Instrument (IPI) under the French Presidency of the Council of the EU**

**Brussels, 18 March 2022** – AEGIS Europe applauds the agreement on the new rules aimed at promoting reciprocity in access to international public procurement markets. The conclusion of the negotiations after 10 years reveals that EU legislators understood the acute need for adequate tools to achieve a level-playing field, in particular with respect to public procurement.

*“Our alliance strongly welcomes the ambitious agreement on the IPI. We have called for the adoption of this instrument for a long time and we are confident that through this new lever of the European trade policy, third countries will be encouraged to end discriminatory practices in the field of public procurement,”* comments Inès Van Lierde, Chair of AEGIS Europe.

We welcome in particular the possibilities to exclude third country bidders or to apply score adjustment measures, within a reasonable timeframe for the investigation and consultations.

Our alliance also applauds the deletion of the exception to IPI measures based on a “disproportionate increase in the price or cost of the contract” – a priority for European manufacturing industries – since it could have undermined the instrument by providing a loophole.

Last but not least, AEGIS Europe welcomes anti-circumvention provisions which will be created by imposing additional obligations on successful tenderers in procurement procedures to which an IPI measure applies, such as the one not to subcontract more than 50% of the total value of the contract to economic operators from a third country subject to an IPI measure.

*“AEGIS Europe is firmly convinced that the IPI could be a critical tool in ensuring a level-playing field in international public procurement for European businesses, complementing existing or future EU instruments.”* concluded Inès Van Lierde, Chair of AEGIS Europe.

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*About AEGIS Europe:*

AEGIS Europe is an industry alliance that brings together more than 20 European manufacturing associations from metals and ceramics to energy and transportation industries committed to manufacturing in the EU on a truly level playing field ensured by a rules-based free and fair international trade. Our members account for more than €500 billion in annual turnover, as well as for millions of jobs across the EU.