

Isabelle Barthès, industriAll Europe Deputy General Secretary, said:

Industrial workers are more and more anxious about their future. Further to the challenges of the green and digital transformation, they now face an industrial crisis and a trade war which are likely to have a massive impact on their jobs. They are already experiencing daily restructuring, sites closures, delayed investments and stalled demand.

Workers need to be protected. The EU and national governments have to provide them with social stability and security.

We welcome the proposed change to the EGF which was swiftly put forward by the EU Commission, but it is only starting to address the needed emergency architecture.

We need firefighting actions to protect workers and European companies now – through a worker safeguard measure like SURE in the pandemic with social strings attached. Responding to the social urgency is essential to deliver on quality jobs.

We also need to ensure just transition so that transitions are not seen as a threat. Workers have to be empowered so that they can make the best of these transitions. This is why we need a legal tool to ensure the effective anticipation and management of employment and skills. This requires strengthening collective bargaining, information and consultation' rights and establishing a right to training to ensure job-to-job transitions.

Transitions must go hand in hand with quality jobs. Otherwise, we will face a social backlash. Anxiety is already very visible. This is why we urgently need a legal tool to ensure smooth transition.