Accordingly, US and Asia in key technology areas that form the basis of competitiveness. This requires an ambitious strategy, taking full advantage of current research successes, understanding emerging risks and opportunities, considering the wider international industrial landscape, and focusing on European added value.

As already stated in a previous joint declaration, in order to fulfil European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker’s wish to “make our industry stronger and more competitive” and “help our industries stay or become the world leader in innovation”, FP9 should from the start prioritise support to industrial competitiveness. This includes continued support to de-risk and incentivise private sector RD&I investments, as key components of EU renewed industrial policy strategy.

To boost our competitiveness by increasing our productivity, the EU needs to anticipate developments in the US and Asia in key technology areas that form the basis of our society’s future products and services. Accordingly, FP9 design should reflect such priorities and aim at:

- **Maximising the impact of the EU funded RD&I for society, building on Horizon 2020’s efforts.** This includes continued support to de-risk and incentivise private sector RD&I investments, as key components of EU renewed industrial policy strategy.
- **Strengthening European Industries’ capacities to further absorb and scale up novel technologies** maturing into new products and services - with the support of Horizon 2020 and national RD&I programmes - and apply them in addressing global challenges. FP9 design should maximise the participation of industries of all sizes to promote a competitive RD&I ecosystem capable of better absorbing recently developed innovations and technologies for the benefit of the whole society.
- **Strengthening Europe’s capabilities to keep on top of the “innovation race” with third countries in order to safeguard Europe’s economic growth and employment.** The forthcoming FP9 should enable Europe to remain at the forefront of RD&I by supporting the development of innovative technologies and skills with the view to address societal challenges and create new markets and new industries.
- **Supporting European cross-border industry-driven collaborative RD&I, which is needed more than ever before to make the ongoing technological transitions a success for both European economy and society.** In this context, European public-private partnerships (cPPPs and JTIs) shall continue to play a crucial role in leveraging private sector investments, linking those with EU, national and regional efforts, as well as in helping SMEs and Start-ups engage in EU and international supply chains, while working with key knowledge partners like Research and Technology Organisations.

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3. Including by Member States.
5. EC President Jean-Claude Juncker Annual State of the Union Speech, 13 September 2017.
6. Including Key Enabling Technologies (KETs).
We, the 25 signatories of this Joint Declaration, are ready to strengthen our cooperation with the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council of the European Union to define and implement an ambitious FP9. In line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, FP9 should have the objective of strengthening not only Europe’s scientific basis, but also its technological basis, encouraging the development of a competitive European RD&I ecosystem. This will be paramount to position Europe as a global industrial leader and to safeguard our growth and employment.