Greening EU Industrial Policy: Crowding in Finance Capital, and **Crowding out Labour and Democracy**

Euromemo Conference, Naples, 26-27 September 2023



Angela Wigger Radboud University Nijmegen The Netherlands





The EU will do everything it can to support European industries in winning the race for leading green technology value chains.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, in March 2023









EU First: Make Europe Great Again







Goals

- make the EU future proof and boost industrial competitiveness
- restore an attractive investment climate and induce export-led growth
- ensure an **open strategic autonomy** and technological sovereignty
- enact the transition to a green and digital economy
- backshore manufacturing capacity in key industries away from emerging markets, reduce geopolitical dependencies on global supply chains
- strengthen intra-EU value chains, so that manufacturing exports can be branded and exported as Made in Europe

5

Examples of the "New" EU Industrial Policy

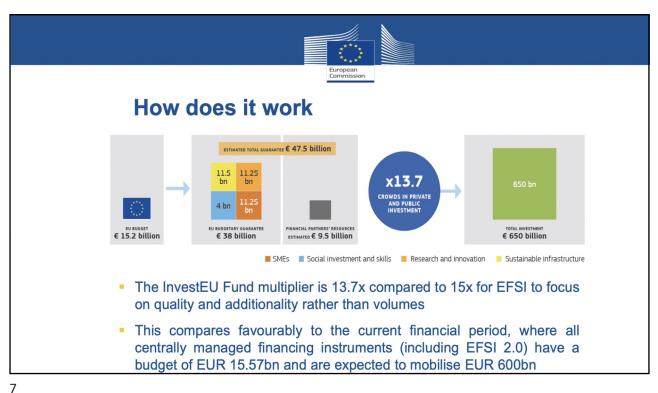




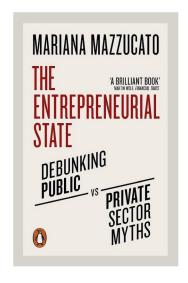
- Industry 4.0 Initiatives
- Digital Single Market (2016)
- Smart Specialisation (2014)
- Steel Action Plan (2013), +other sector specific action plans
- Defence Action Plan (2016)
- Faster standard setting, Unitary patent law, Smart and lean regulation
- **REFIT/Competitiveness Proofing**
- New public procurement rules
- Trade and investment treaties
- State aid leniency for "Important Projects of Common European Interest" (IPCI), such as microelectronics and battery value chains
- **Investment Screening**
- Chips Act
- **REPowerEU**
- Proposed in 2023: EU Net-Zero Industry Act

Financing instruments:

- European Fund for Strategic Investments (Juncker Funds)
- Programme for the Competitiveness of **Enterprises and Small** and Medium-sized Enterprises (COSME) now InvestEU
- EU Structural Funds, such as the Cohesion Fund
- Horizon2020/Horizon Europe
- EIB/ERDF
- Capital Markets Union (CMU)



The Enterpreneurial State as a Market Shaper and Risk Taker



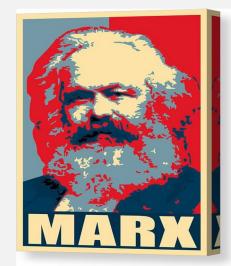






/

Rentier's Capitalism



There are even phases in the life of modern nations when everybody is seized with a sort of craze for making profit without producing ...

this **speculation craze** recurs periodically.

Karl Marx in *Grundrisse*

