



European
Semiconductor
Industry
Association

Brussels, 17 June 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ESIA welcomes Commission action on foreign subsidies

On 17 June 2020, the European Commission issued a “*White Paper on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies*”. ESIA, the voice of the semiconductor industry in Europe, welcomes the initiative as a necessary step toward levelling the global playing field.

ESIA welcomes the publication of the White Paper as an essential step toward securing the EU’s technological sovereignty. Ensuring the global level playing field is paramount to innovation and excellence in European semiconductor manufacturing. Today’s White Paper follows European regulation entering into force in 2019, setting up a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the EU.

Recent geopolitical developments have given reason to take a closer look into EU’s approach to its strategic value chains. Third countries often provide disproportionate foreign subsidies to companies that the financial market would not typically support—as a result of this often building up their technological basis to the detriment of the future competitiveness of the EU, and the EU Single Market.

In the past, EU policy tools have not been able to adequately address the effects of subsidies granted by foreign governments on the EU internal market. In March 2019, the European Commission announced that it would seek to examine how to approach the distortive effects of foreign state ownership and financing on the single market. Today, the European Commission published its “[*White Paper on levelling the playing field as regards foreign subsidies*](#)” to be able address any gaps in EU law that make its strategic value chains vulnerable to often state-backed foreign buyers.

For more information:

[Hendrik Abma](#)

Director General

European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA)

Tel: +32 2 290 36 60

About ESIA: *The European Semiconductor Industry Association (ESIA) is the voice of the semiconductor industry in Europe. Its mission is to represent and promote the common interests of the Europe-based semiconductor industry towards the European institutions and stakeholders in order to ensure a sustainable business environment and foster its global competitiveness. As a provider of key enabling technologies, the industry creates innovative solutions for industrial development, contributing to economic growth and responding to major societal challenges. Being ranked as the most R&D-intensive sector by the European Commission, the European semiconductor ecosystem supports approx. 200.000 jobs directly and up to 1.000.000 induced jobs in systems, applications and services in Europe. Overall, micro- and nano-electronics enable the generation of at least 10% of GDP in Europe and the world.*