

European specializations

Sectoral specialization has seen its technological content expand. European automotive companies are today among the largest investors in R&D, across all sectors. In chemicals and pharmaceuticals, aeronautics and defense too, EU companies are very close to the technological frontier.

At the same time, Europe seems to have lost the battle for semiconductors and, more recently, solar panels to the benefit of its American, South Korean and Chinese competitors. It also appears to be in a weak position for batteries and robots, two fundamental technological fields for the industrial future.



However, the EU is characterized by high technological intensity, qualified personnel, research institutions and high-level educational infrastructure. These elements are supported by proactive policies to support innovation and R&D in each member country and at European level.

But Europe is struggling to establish itself as a digital power.

Mastering digital technologies and artificial intelligence is a major challenge for the future of European specialization.

Mondialisation et Commerce, Cahiers Français review, La Documentation Française, n ° 407, Nov-Dec. 2018, © DILA.

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