



Mr Alexander DE CROO
Prime Minister of Belgium

Sent by email

15 April 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

Message to the special EU Council meeting on 17-18 April 2024: a new European deal is needed to improve Europe's competitiveness

During its special meeting on 17-18 April, the European Council will hear a presentation of the high-level report on the future of the Single Market prepared by Mr Enrico Letta at the request of the European Council and discuss the Strategic Agenda for the EU in 2024-2029.

To deliver for society, the European Union needs strong companies as much as European companies need a strong European Union to succeed. European enterprises are committed to play their role in society but they are held back by high energy costs, excessive regulation and skills and labour shortages. BusinessEurope has recently published the enclosed call for a reboot in EU policies and sketching out the changes of approach needed to build a Resilient European Union with Energy at affordable prices, Better and simpler regulation, Open and rules-based trade leading to more Opportunities for companies and people in the single market through Technological innovation and talent development.

BusinessEurope looks forward to the publication of the Letta report. Swift removal of remaining barriers to free movement in the context of a horizontal strategy to deepen and modernize our single market is essential. However, many other EU policies need to be mobilised in order to facilitate and encourage private investment in Europe.

We count on the European Council to ensure that the future EU single market strategy is embedded in a new European deal which focuses on ensuring that the agenda for the European Union in 2024-2029 improves Europe's competitiveness and attractiveness as a business location. Only through strengthening its economy will the EU be able to achieve its environmental and social goals as well as continuing to act as an anchor for peace, prosperity, and security in an increasingly uncertain world.

Yours sincerely,

F. Persson
President

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General

Enclosure: 1