

Mr Charles Michel
President of the European Council
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
BE – 1048 Brussels
BELGIUM

21 June 2024

Dear President,

Message to EU Council meeting on 27-28 June 2024

An ambitious new European Competitiveness Deal for industry and services is needed to deliver the EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029

The European Council meeting on 27-28 June 2024 will be the first formal European Council meeting after the European elections. BusinessEurope counts on EU leaders to agree on an EU strategic agenda 2024-2029 that will pave the way for a strong and prosperous Europe.

The proposed strategic agenda foresees 3 priorities: a Free and Democratic Europe, a Strong and Secure Europe, and a Prosperous and Competitive Europe. BusinessEurope strongly supports these goals. European companies are an essential part of the answer.

Having a successful economy empowered by competitive European companies is a prerequisite to be able to live up to our European values, defending democracy, the rule of law, rules-based trade and the international legal order. It is extremely important for the fulfilment of Europe's commitment to stand by Ukraine and pave the way to a successful EU enlargement on a merit-based approach. It is essential if we want to strengthen Europe's defence capacities. It is indispensable to be able to invest in the green and digital transition, preserve our European social model and provide a prosperous future for citizens.

Putting in place an ambitious New European Competitiveness Deal, as agreed during the Special meeting of the European Council on 17-18 April 2024, is essential to allow European companies to play their role in helping to achieve the 3 priorities of the proposed strategic agenda.

For BusinessEurope, this ambitious New European Competitiveness Deal needs to reboot European policies and include the following key components:

- a real strategy to reduce the regulatory burden that is weighing on European companies and hampering innovation, starting with reporting requirements simplification and speeding up approval and permitting procedures, and go beyond that by making a competitiveness-fitness check of the existing legal acquis and consistently applying competitiveness checks on all future EU regulatory initiatives,

- taking concrete actions to use the momentum created by the Letta report to rejuvenate our Single Market, ensuring a level-playing-field, removing obstacles to doing cross-border business in all areas, and creating the conditions that will allow European startups to scale up from Europe,
- an ambitious trade agenda that secures stable access to raw materials and opens new trade and investment opportunities for companies while promoting a level playing field and we must strike the right balance between ensuring security and enabling the European economy to safeguard our competitiveness,
- complementing the Green Deal with an ambitious industrial strategy so that it becomes a real growth strategy delivering the EU's climate neutrality ambitions, economic success and the means to invest in this deep transformation,
- moving away from a regulatory approach to social policy to focus instead on promoting mobility and addressing labour shortages and skills mismatches which undermine growth and employment, respecting subsidiarity and developing social dialogue across Europe,
- enhancing access to finance by developing well-functioning Capital Markets and Banking Unions to maintain an efficient and competitive banking system and broader financial sector, able to support the development of European companies of all sizes,
- restoring the sustainability of public finances, ensuring that public debt is settled by growth, creating the conditions that will attract badly needed investment in Europe, facilitating innovation and pursuing growth-friendly as well as easy to comply with tax policies.

Further details on the actions we would like to see taken during the last semester of 2024 to start delivering this New European Competitiveness Deal from the start the new European cycle will be given in our Budapest Council of Presidents declaration to be published in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,



Fredrik Persson
President



Markus J. Beyrer
Director General