



Ms Elżbieta Bienkowska

Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship & SMEs
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE-1040 Brussels
BELGIUM

16 December 2014

Re: BUSINESSEUROPE priorities for the single market, services and SME policy

Dear Commissioner,

Following our meeting on 6 November, I am pleased to present you BUSINESSEUROPE's priorities for the single market, services and SME policy, which you will find at annex to this letter.

One of our key priorities is to make the single market work better to drive growth and job creation and to make Europe more competitive. To do this, remaining barriers to free movement must be removed. This can often be achieved by ensuring that existing single market rules work better on the ground, rather than introducing new legislation. At annex you will find our strategy paper outlining our recommendations for the single market.

Particularly in the area of services, many barriers remain due to the diverse interpretation and application of the 2006 Services Directive. In addition, companies experience obstacles linked to diverse national standards, lack of recognition of professional qualifications, strains on company mobility or barriers to online service provision. In this context, BUSINESSEUROPE looks forward to the expected Commission mid-2015 report on the remaining obstacles to the free movement of services in the single market. Our strategy paper on services, which you will find at annex to this letter, is meant to feed into the consultative process leading up to this report. It is essential that the Commission also presents an innovative and ambitious action plan together with its report to address the identified barriers.

The future EU strategies in the competitiveness and single market areas will only generate their full results if they are flanked with additional SME-geared measures, addressing the specific challenges that SMEs are confronted with. The Commission has a key role to play for pushing a pro-SME action agenda built on both EU and convergent national policy initiatives. I am pleased to send you herewith our recommendations for such an action agenda.



Delivering it will require in particular to revise and strengthen the EU Small Business Act (SBA). We hope that the Commission will table a proposal in this direction in early 2015.

As single market, services and SME policies are so closely connected and intertwined, we believe it is positive that they have been re-grouped under your responsibility and merged into one DG. It will be key to ensure that EU policies in these areas are streamlined and complement each other.

We trust that you will take our views into account and look forward to discuss these issues further with you.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer