



Conference on the 30th anniversary of the Single Market: EU's engine for sustainable growth in future perspectives, 8. 12. 2022

Czech Presidency takeaways

- The Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU organized, in cooperation with the European Commission, a conference entitled **30th Anniversary of the Single Market: the engine of sustainable growth in the EU in the future perspective**. The conference, held in Prague, focused on further development of the Single Market and the vision for the next 30 years, its opportunities and risks for further integration.
- **With a market of 450 million people the EU Single Market lets citizens and businesses enjoy the benefits of freedom of movement of persons, services, goods and capital**. It has stimulated trade and competition in the EU, and improved efficiency, fuelling economic growth and making everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier.
- In their opening statements, **Minister Jozef Síkela**, [Commissioner Thierry Breton](#) and **Chair of European Parliament's IMCO Committee Anna Cavazzini** highlighted the progress achieved in the past 30 years, both in widening of the economic activities covered by EU legislation and in deepening of the acquis to overcome emerging gaps in Single Market integration, most recently in the green and digital sectors.
- Commissioner Breton warmly thanked CZ PRES for its productive work on the Single Market and for impressive results of the Council Presidency. In a follow-up he outlined plans and initiatives for the Single Market in the coming year. **The Commission intends to focus on checking all legislative proposals against their possible adverse effects on the SMEs and also on helping to achieve open strategic autonomy of the EU.**
- Focused on future perspectives of the Single Market in the context of the twin transition and current crises, **speakers in the first panel agreed a fully functioning Single Market is a fundamental prerequisite for growth, competitiveness, resilience and a rapid recovery of the EU economy from the COVID-19 crisis.**
- The discussion showed that the future prospects for the functioning of the Single Market will be in the spirit of further modernisation and adaptation to the modern digital and green age. Three main areas of focus should cover investment, skills and targeted regulation. Investment that



incite the future growth, skills that enable EU citizens to adapt to the upcoming changes and tailor-made and proportionate regulation.

- The second panel focused on SMEs on the Single Market. **It concluded that barriers in services still remain, and thus prevent businesses from using the full potential of the Single Market.** Furthermore, these barriers affect smaller businesses more than anyone else. The speakers agreed on the need to further remove these barriers and to strive for proper implementation of the existing rules. To achieve that **a new political commitment is needed and a cooperation of all stakeholders, while applying the Single Market perspective.**
- It has been highlighted that **SMEs need simple and high-quality regulation that pays attention to their needs.** Also, the regulation shall only take place when necessary. As per the twin transition, the rule of “innovate than regulate” shall be followed (instead of “regulate then innovate”).
- The discussion also revolved around initiatives and services available on the Single Market, such as the Single Market Enforcement Taskforce, notification procedures, the Single Digital Gateway, SOLVIT, the Product Contact Point or Points of Single Contact for service providers. It was agreed to make these services more visible for businesses and citizens and continuously strive for their better functioning.