



20 June 2007

Enforcement in the Internal Market

Wednesday 20 June 2007

Welcome speech by Jesús Banegas – Chairman of BUSINESSEUROPE Internal Market Committee

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning – It is my pleasure to welcome you here in BUSINESSEUROPE today to discuss enforcement in the Internal Market, that is to say how the rules and principles designed to create a single market in Europe are applied in practice and how compliance with them is supervised. Let me also say first that I am very pleased and thankful to have such distinguished speakers from all interested parties: EU authorities, national governments and economic operators.

- The Internal Market is solidly built on the four fundamental freedoms ensuring movement of goods, services, capital and persons. Since its origins in the 80s, the Internal Market has brought many benefits for companies and citizens and is one of the cornerstones of European prosperity and well-being. It is also crucial for the competitiveness of European companies and realisation of the Lisbon objectives.
- This is why further integration of the European market continues to be one of the main priorities for action and communication for BUSINESSEUROPE with a particular emphasis on the effective enforcement of Internal Market rules.
- Our debate comes at a particularly appropriate time, as the Commission has come forward or is in the process of preparing important initiatives:
 1. The “goods package” issued in February 2007 to ensure that companies can better rely on the mutual recognition principle or market surveillance when selling goods across Europe.
 2. The forthcoming Communication on the Application of Community Law on which Mrs Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission, will expand later on.
 3. The final report on the Single Market Review which will be presented later this year together with a list of concrete proposals.



- BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes these initiatives but reiterates that both the Commission and national governments must step up their efforts to ensure a more efficient and event enforcement of the EU legal framework.
- The objective of today's debate is to stimulate discussion on the existing enforcement problems and to draw some conclusions as to how to improve enforcement in the Internal Market that can be used in future policy-making. We will also present BUSINESSEUROPE's recommendations for improvement that are summarised in a new brochure issued on the occasion of the seminar.
- First we will welcome Mrs Catherine Day, Secretary General of the European Commission, who will be the keynote speaker today. She will explain the future Commission's Communication on the application of Community law and infringement procedures.
- She will be followed by Paul Coebergh, Senior Director at Philips, who will tell us about its company's enforcement troubles in the Internal Market, mainly concerning the mutual recognition principle.
- Panel 2 will welcome two representatives from national authorities: Mr Marc Van Hende from the Belgian Directorate-General Enforcement and Mediation of Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy, and Mr Dirk Meijer from the Dutch food and consumer product safety authority. They will describe their role in the enforcement process and the problems they encounter in their daily jobs.
- Last but not least, in panel 3 we will hear from Mr Michel Ayrat, Director in DG Enterprise and Industry, and Mrs Jacqueline Minor, Director in DG Internal Market and Services, their experience and assessment on enforcement of Community legislation for goods and services respectively and the most recent and future proposals for improvement.
- Each panel will be followed by a time for questions and answers and we strongly encourage participants to intervene. Without further ado, I look forward to a fruitful debate and I pass the floor to Mr Jean-Paul Mingasson, General Adviser in BUSINESSEUROPE, who will expand on the key issues that challenge enforcement in the Internal Market.

The floor is yours, Mr Mingasson,

THANK YOU!
