



# **Diagnosis of the Single Market: the business perspective**

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# Overview

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## 1. The Single Market today

## 2. Existing barriers

- Regulatory obstacles
- Incorrect enforcement
- Lack of information/awareness
- Labour market costs and rigidities

## 3. Priorities for action

- Better Regulation
- Better enforcement
- Information and awareness
- Innovation and knowledge
- Integrate flexicurity in labour markets
- Strategic sectors



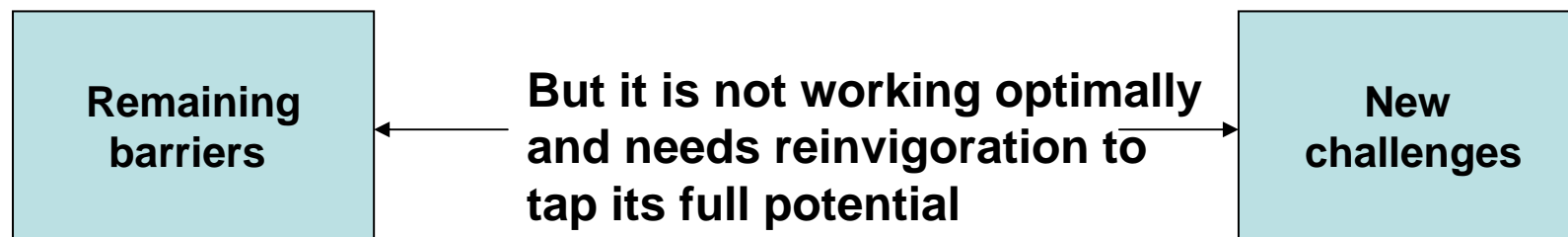
# 1. The Single Market today

Based on four fundamental freedoms

Free movement of goods	Free movement of people/workers
Free movement of services	Free movement of capital

Creates many advantages for society

Consumers	Citizens
Companies	Economy



## 2. Existing barriers

### 2.1. Regulatory obstacles

- Legal uncertainty
  - A) National level
    - Late/incorrect transposition
    - Gold-plating
  - B) European level
    - Inconsistency among different EU laws
    - Ambiguous wording in legal texts
    - Insufficient attention to transposition and implementation
  
- Market fragmentation
  - A) Tax obstacles
    - Double taxation
    - VAT compliance requirements
  - B) National consumer rules (Rome I)
  - C) Data protection and privacy



## 2. Existing barriers

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### 2.2. Incorrect enforcement

- Lack of cooperation between national authorities
- Divergent application of mutual recognition
- Duplication of administrative requirements
- Inadequate customs policy
- Insufficient market surveillance



## 2. Existing barriers

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### 2.3 Labour-market costs and rigidities

- Insufficient mobility of workers
- Lack of skilled workforce

### 2.4 Lack of information/awareness

- Rights and obligations from the Single Market are not well known by most citizens and SMEs
- Public procurement particularly in cross-border tendering



## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.1 Better Regulation

- Better elaboration of rules
  - Systematic and early stakeholder involvement
  - Use of impact assessment including benchmarks
  - Reduction of administrative burden
  
- Implementation and transposition
  - Regular use of assistance plans and guidance
  - Speedier and more efficient infringement procedures
  
- Redress and problem-solving tools
  - Promotion of out-of-court dispute resolution mechanisms
  - Reinforcement of SOLVIT at national level



## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.2 Better enforcement

- Improved cooperation and mutual assistance among national authorities at all levels
- Exchange of best practices
- Effective and homogeneous market surveillance
- Efficient customs policy
- Better training of enforcers
- E-government (e-invoicing, e-procurement, e-customs)





## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.3 Innovation and knowledge

- Transfer of knowledge
  - Invest on R&D activities
  
- Promotion of EU standards
  
- Enforcement of intellectual property rights
  - Need for a more competitive EU patent system
  - Fight against piracy and counterfeiting
  
- Better use of ICT



## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.4 Integrate flexicurity in labour markets

- Correct enforcement of labour law
- Active labour market policies
- Education and lifelong learning
- Modern social protection systems
- Effective social dialogue



## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.5 Information and awareness

- Information campaigns about the Single Market targeting citizens and businesses
- Improved facts and figures on the national dimension of the Single Market
- Use of tools such as one-stop shops avoiding proliferation and confusion



## 3. Priorities for action

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### 3.6 Strategic sectors

- Services sector
  - Transposition of the services directive
- Network industries
  - Need for interoperability (harmonisation of technical standards)
  - Bottlenecks to be removed
- Modernisation of the telecom framework
- Financial services: SEPA, retail financial services
- Improvement of tax systems
- Public services: promotion of Public-Private Partnerships



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Thank you for your attention!

Further information is available at:

**[www.business europe.eu](http://www.business europe.eu)**

