



Mr Zoltan Cséfalvay

Minister of State for National Economy
President EU Competitiveness Council
1055 Budapest
Honvéd u. 13-15., I. em. 120
Hungary

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Dear Minister,

Role of the Competitiveness Council

The Competitiveness Council is in charge of ensuring that the EU develops policies to enhance the competitiveness of Europe. European companies count on this Council to fully play its role in ensuring that:

- all EU policy proposals go through real competitiveness checks as foreseen in the communication on industrial policy,
- the promised 25% reduction of administrative burden by 2012 is delivered and barriers to entrepreneurship are removed.

Competitiveness is the basis of sustainable growth and employment. In our Spring 2011 Economic Outlook, we forecast that GDP growth in 2011 will reach 1.8% and the creation of one million new jobs. However, the situation differs widely from country to country. Our latest Reform Barometer shows that countries carrying out sound macroeconomic policies and implementing structural reforms are the drivers of growth and job creation in the EU. We need more reformers today in order to have more winners tomorrow.

Single Market Act

The single market is a key driver for Europe's competitiveness and the Single Market Act is a fundamental step to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives.

BUSINESSEUROPE welcomes the focus on a limited number of measures with precise implementation deadlines. Concerning the actions proposed, we support in particular measures to:

- improve access to finance for SMEs,
- boost e-commerce and create a true digital single market which can boost EU GDP by more than 4%,
- create a patent protection system that meets the needs of all European businesses,
- adopt a simple and flexible European Private Company Statute to provide companies with a platform to go across borders.

However, unnecessary changes in public procurement rules and controversial social or fiscal proposals could spoil the momentum.

Stronger enforcement of EU legislation and better information on existing rules is absolutely key to revitalise the single market. To improve its governance, national and regional authorities must apply single market rules fully and provide the Commission with all the necessary information on how single market legislation has been implemented.

Small Business Act


Another important issue on which the EU governance process must urgently be improved to release the growth and employment potential of SMEs is the Small Business Act (SBA).

BUSINESSEUROPE asks the Competitiveness Council to:

- adopt ambitious and quantified targets limiting the start-up time for new enterprises and administrative costs connected to the creation of a company,
- ensure that each Member State nominates an SME Envoy as requested in the Commission's communication on the review of the SBA,
- obtain a redeployment of EU financial instruments towards competitiveness and SMEs development in the future multiannual financial framework, and
- direct the support of the Commission and of the EIB Group towards technological innovation companies.

The Competitiveness Council has a key role to play in the implementation of the Single Market Act and the Small Business Act but its responsibilities extend way beyond that. It must act as the competitiveness conscience of Europe and shape the decisions taken at European level to answer the economic, social and environmental challenges facing us.

Yours sincerely,

best regards,


Philippe de Buck