



17 April 2012

DANISH PRESIDENCY: MEETING WITH MS HELLE THORNING SCHMIDT, PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 The Danish Presidency must continue to work simultaneously on public finance consolidation and growth enhancing reforms. This is essential to allow company investment to generate growth and jobs.
- 2 The Single Market Act must be implemented in a way that supports growth. Top priority must be given to fully implementing the services directive, developing e-commerce, maintaining an open and competitive public procurement legal framework, carrying forward the Digital Agenda, and creating a patent protection system that meets the needs of all European businesses.
- 3 The posting of workers directive must be properly applied in practiced but shifting the burden of enforcement on companies through a European system of joint and several liability is not the right solution. Creating an ill-defined chain of responsibilities can only undermine the development of cross-border economic activity.
- 4 The negotiation on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework should result in a competitiveness-friendly EU budget. A more radical overhaul is needed than what the EU Commission has proposed. Proposals like Horizon 2020, the Connecting Europe facility and Competitiveness and SME programme must be strengthened. A share of the European Social Fund should be devoted to dual learning. The proposal for a Financial Transaction Tax should not be taken forward.
- 5 The energy efficiency directive must trigger buildings' renovation but remain flexible and not confuse energy efficiency with prescriptions on cutting energy consumption. Regulatory barriers must be removed and financial risk-sharing facilities enhanced if we want the EU to leverage the €200 billion investment needed in European energy infrastructure by 2020.
- 6 Trade barriers must be removed and market access and investment conditions for European companies abroad must be improved. The EU-US High Level Working Group should rapidly deliver on an ambitious proposal for trade and investment liberalisation negotiations across the Atlantic.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

GDP is expected to stagnate in the EU in 2012 and to decrease by 0,3% in the Eurozone	Service activities represents 75% of EU GDP and 2/3 of jobs but cross border services only account for 5% of GDP compared with 17% of GDP for goods.	Posted workers are not a threat for local workers. Only some 325.000 construction workers are posted in another EU country each year.
Out of € 1025 billion in commitment for 2014-2020, the Commission only proposes to devote € 50 billion to the connecting Europe facility (including 10bn earmarked for the cohesion fund).	EU industry has improved its energy efficiency by 30% since 1990 and building renovation could save 32% in energy consumption.	EU-US tariff liberalisation could create up to 100.000 jobs on each side of the Atlantic