



17 September 2012

DRAFT PROGRAMME

OPEN DAYS 2012 - EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES

COHESION POLICY AFTER 2014: ENABLING COMPANIES TO STIMULATE GROWTH?

Date: 10 October 2012, 11.15 – 13.00

Venue: Brussels, Committee of the Regions, Room JDE62

Introductory Statement:

- **Jan Rafaj**, Vice-President of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

Panel discussion moderated by Peter Spiegel, Financial Times (with Q&As)

- **Walter Deffaa**, Director-General Regional Policy, European Commission
- **Emmanuel Glimet**, Director of EU funding, General Electric
- **Danuta Hübner**, Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the REGI committee
- **Jan Prokš**, Ing. PhD, Electrical and Electronic Association and SME representative (tbc)
- **Council Representative**

Concluding remarks

- **Philippe de Buck**, Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE

OUTLINE

The debate on the future of cohesion policy is well underway. While the proposed overhaul seems to provide the right tools and framework for a more effective policy, it also brings along an important amount of new procedures and compliance requirements. Moreover, while concentrating funds in key priorities is welcome, favouring certain priorities might fail to address specific regional needs and bring adverse effects to beneficiaries.

Bringing together views from company representatives and a wide variety of stakeholders, we envisage a frank and open discussion considering issues such as: will the new design of cohesion policy improve its efficiency? Should structural funds be awarded on the basis of the size of the company rather than the quality of the project? Will the new rules translate into less time-consuming procedures for beneficiaries?