

3 September 2012

BUILDING A GENUINE SINGLE MARKET FOR SERVICES

KEY MESSAGES

- 1 Establishing a well-functioning **single market for all service sectors** is key to enhance Europe's overall competitiveness, boost growth and innovation, and create new jobs, while offering more choice and better services to citizens and businesses.
- 2 Despite the progress made by the 2006 Services Directive, service companies still face many regulatory, linguistic and administrative barriers when operating in the single market.
- 3 Putting in place well-functioning Points of Single Contact to provide companies with the necessary information and assistance is crucial to boost cross-border but also domestic service provision. The portals need to be user-friendly and functional, and respond well to the needs of companies, in particular start-ups.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- Full implementation, correct application and strong enforcement of the Services Directive in all Member States. This alone can bring additional gains up to 1.8% of EU GDP (about €330 billion).
- The removal of all remaining burdensome, discriminatory and unjustified national requirements applicable to service providers, such as residence requirements or economic needs tests, and avoiding the introduction of new ones.
- Further modernisation and simplification of the administrative procedures applicable to service companies through better functioning Points of Single Contact, offering companies the possibility to complete administrative procedures entirely online and providing all the necessary information and assistance, in various languages in addition to English.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Services account for almost 70% of EU GDP and around two-thirds of total employment in Europe.

At present 9 out of 10 new jobs are created in Europe's services sectors.

Last year 80% of all start-ups in France were service companies.



- A reduction of the number of regulated professions, prioritising the professions and sectors which have the largest growth potential and are most regulated or only regulated in one Member State.
- Better recognition of professional qualifications throughout Europe as the free movement of labour is often a prerequisite for cross-border service provision and establishment abroad.
- The removal of overly burdensome and disproportionate insurance obligations, legal form and ownership requirements, and other restrictive national legislation.

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