

BUSINESSEUROPE



EP Hearing

Implementing the Services Directive: Lift-Off for Mission Growth

The remaining barriers for companies

Mechteld Oomen

Vice-Chair

BUSINESSEUROPE's Internal Market Policy Committee

Services in Europe

- Services key for growth and Europe's competitiveness
- The Services Directive has improved the business environment: many national requirements modernised or abolished
- Yet, many remaining barriers for companies (regulatory and administrative) on the ground, in particular in a cross-border setting

Barriers related to implementation of SD (1)

- Services Directive: still not fully implemented and correctly applied in all MS!
- Issues with “grey zones” - Article 15 and 16: often poor proportionality analyses / protectionism
- Ensure “act as agreed”: report and benchmarking to Competitiveness Council and European Parliament



Barriers related to implementation of SD (2)

Points of Single Contact (PSC)

- can provide great benefits, cost reduction for both:
 - companies by online information and assistance
 - governments by e-government tools
- Yet, much room for improvement:
 - Make full online procedure possible -> e-signature
 - More and accurate information
 - More languages
- Sign up to an ambitious “PSC Charter”



Integrated approach needed

- Need for in-depth analysis of ALL remaining barriers affecting service providers – also beyond remit of SD
- Need for consistence in other EU directives and initiatives

Many other barriers outside remit SD (1)

- a. Sectors not covered by SD (private security, healthcare)

- b. Other issues:
 - Lack of recognition of professional qualifications
 - Number of regulated professions and specialisations
 - Double insurance issues
 - Lack of mutual recognition/conflicting national standards



Other barriers outside remit SD (2)

b. Other issues (continued):

- Disproportionate rules on spatial planning
- Heavy legal form and ownership requirements
- A lack of productivity in business services



To conclude:

- Act now for growth and jobs! Define next steps to further integrate Europe's services markets
- Integrated approach needed:
 - Enforce Services Directive + benchmark progress
 - Also beyond the remit of the SD:
 - Less regulated professions and better recognition professional qualifications
 - Less regulatory burden (insurance, legal forms); boost business to business productivity of services industry

