



Mrs. Anna Maria Corazza Bildt
Member of the European Parliament
Bât. Altiero Spinelli
05F358
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

C.c.: All IMCO MEPs and substitutes

5 March 2013

Re: The European Parliament's Report on the internal market for services

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

Dear Mrs. Corazza Bildt,

In view of the report you are currently preparing, we would like to share with you our views on the state of the single market for services and next steps to be taken to further integrate national services markets and improve their functioning.

The 2006 Services Directive has brought significant improvements to the legal framework applicable to service providers and recipients across Europe. Hundreds of national laws have been modernised and many unjustified, discriminatory and disproportionate requirements have been adapted or abolished.

Yet, despite the progress made, European companies experience every day that the single market for services is still far from being a reality. They continue to face many regulatory and administrative obstacles when wanting to offer their services across borders either on a temporary basis or through establishment in another Member State.

As a matter of fact, since 2004, trade in services between the EU and the rest of the world has been growing faster than inside Europe. This needs to change urgently. Europe can simply not afford to ignore the great growth potential of further integrating its services markets for a more competitive EU economy that create jobs.

The services package presented by the European Commission in June 2012 offers a good starting point, but we need to be even more ambitious.



Member States need to step up their efforts now, not only to fully implement the Services Directive, but also to revisit the *grey zones* where poor proportionality analyses have been made. We must also decisively address the many remaining barriers beyond the remit of the Directive.

You will find more detailed remarks in the position paper at annex. We trust that you will take our views into account for your important report and remain at your disposal to discuss these matters further with you.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer