



Mr Herman Van Rompuy
President
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
BELGIUM

18 June 2014

Dear President,

Fewer priorities and bolder actions for competitiveness

The European Council discussions on 26-27 June take place at a crucial moment for Europe. One month after the European elections, strong signals must be given. The next five years will be crucial for Europe's economic and political place in the world.

Europe is only now starting to return to growth, in some cases very tentatively, and the blight of unemployment still stalks the Continent with over one in five of our young people looking for work. Europe's citizens have coped with the realities of recession and want to see measures that help them and their families. The status quo won't do. We must achieve a reformed European Union.

Companies strongly believe in the European Union. They are the most important contributors in improving the prosperity of European citizens and in order to perform at the maximum of their capacity, generate growth and create more jobs, they need an improved investment climate in Europe.

The enclosed message to the new European Parliament and the European Council explains what European companies expect from the European Union in the next five years.

The European Union must focus on the real issues and become more competitive, less bureaucratic, more pro-active, open to the world and outward looking. It must also better leverage its key strength: a Single Market with more than 500 million consumers, as well as further strengthen the Economic and Monetary Union and tackle the underlying causes of high energy prices which lead to industrial investment leakage out of Europe.

We will need strong and reform-minded leaders in the European Union institutions, and a fundamental change in the internal governance of the Commission, Council and Parliament to focus strictly on competitiveness in order to increase growth and employment.

In a global economy European countries must join forces. By 2050, none of the European member states are projected to be amongst the world's largest economies. Therefore, we only have the choice between succeeding together or becoming insignificant separately.

Yours faithfully,



Emma Marcegaglia

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