



Mrs Ursula von der Leyen

President-elect
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE - 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

16 July 2019

Dear President-elect,

50 actions in the first 100 days of the new European Commission to improve opportunities for all

Allow us to cordially congratulate you on your election by the European Parliament as President of the next European Commission.

European business strongly believes in the European Union, in the economic opportunities it creates, but also in the free and open society it promotes, and which makes the European way of life possible. We provide 80% of the jobs and empower our European way of life. We are and want to be part of the solution to build a Europe with opportunities for all.

You can count on BusinessEurope and its member federations to support you in your endeavour to make sure that Europe remains one of the best places to live, work and do business and to promote our European values in the world. The first 100 days of the new Commission are crucial in showing businesses and citizens that the Commission is ready to deliver.

The Commission needs to focus on strategic priorities, in order to deliver the European Union that we described in our “Ambition for Europe 2030 – A Europe with opportunities for all” (*attached*), a European Union that is:

- strong and setting the agenda in the world;
- a global leader in innovation, digitalisation and sustainability;
- functioning efficiently;
- economically cohesive and socially inclusive.

Faced with an increasingly challenging world economic outlook and rising trade tensions, it is essential that the new Commission soon develops the blueprint for a comprehensive effort to strengthen the economic base of the EU and an EU industrial and growth strategy.

We urge you to:

- defend **rules-based trade, fight protectionism and create a level playing field** by supporting a reformed multilateral trading system while maintaining an ambitious bilateral trade and investment agenda,



- further strengthen and develop **cross-border trade and investment within a barrier-free Single Market** as the basis of European prosperity,
- continue working on **better regulation**, giving more attention to the impact of new EU legislations on our competitiveness and attractiveness as a place to invest;
- support and facilitate **research, development and innovation** throughout the EU and the European Economic Area to regain our world leadership in technology and bring innovative products and services to the market,
- put in place a more **strategic industrial policy** that will allow European manufacturing and services value chains to compete with global economic powers such as the US or China and increase growth and employment across Europe,
- accelerate the **cybersecure digitalisation** of the European economy with freedom to innovate, upholding societal interests and ensuring that education and skills are fit for the digital age,
- complete the **Economic and Monetary Union** to strengthen trust in the Euro and provide a stable environment to investors,
- work towards the objective of **climate neutrality** (net-zero greenhouse gas emissions), while ensuring our competitiveness and security of energy supply,
- foster gradual **economic and social convergence** among member states driven by productivity gains and competitiveness and facilitate labour mobility in the Single Market,
- build a coordinated European solution to better **manage migration** and ensure the proper functioning of the Schengen area,
- continue to strive to avoid a no-deal Brexit whilst mitigating as much as possible the disruptive effect of **Brexit** for European companies.

We also count on you to promote an **entrepreneurial European society** and further strengthen EU action in favour of small and medium sized companies.

The concrete actions that European companies expect from the Commission during its first 100 days are set out at annex.

BusinessEurope is looking forward to working with you and the entire Commission for the common European good and stands ready to discuss these 50 proposals with you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Gattaz
President

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General

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