

Ms Elżbieta Bienkowska
Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

6 June 2018

Re: Interinstitutional dialogue on European standardisation

Dear Commissioner,



BusinessEurope appreciates the Commission's invitation to the interinstitutional dialogue on European standardisation taking place in Brussels on 7 June. Standardisation is an issue of major importance to industry, as it is key to the functioning of the Single Market.

In accepting this invitation, we are however uncomfortable with the design of the event and the questions selected for discussion. Rather than determining priorities for future standard-setting activities and Commission initiatives in the context of the Annual Union Work Programme for European standardisation, in our view a more fundamental discussion on standardisation and the role of industry is necessary.

Harmonised standards are essentially a consensus by industry on how to both meet market needs and better comply with regulation. We have been observing the change of the way in which the New Approach policy for products functions, and in the current situation unfortunately both the development and the use of harmonised standards by industry is no longer a given.

Rather than being industry-driven, European standardisation has become increasingly bureaucratic, both in terms of planning and implementation. As a result, it has become less attractive for companies to engage in the drafting and using of harmonised standards, which in turn reduces regulatory homogeneity in the Single Market. These developments deserve a broad reflection on the functioning of the New Approach.

Yours sincerely,


Markus J. Beyrer