

Mr Frans Timmermans

First Vice-President - Better Regulation,
Interinstitutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the
Charter of Fundamental Rights
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

14 September 2018

Re: Stocktaking of the Commission's 'Better Regulation' approach

Dear First Vice-President,

During this Commission term, many positive steps have been made in the area of Better Regulation. BusinessEurope highly appreciates the efforts to achieve regulatory simplification and to improve the transparency and quality of EU decision-making, which should remain a top priority for the EU. In our view, the Better Regulation agenda should be developed further under the next Commission and become a permanent programme. Stakeholder involvement is a key aspect in this process and should continue to be ensured throughout the Better Regulation approach.

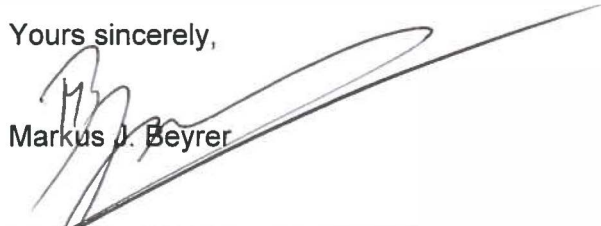
BusinessEurope finds that in particular in the area of regulatory simplification and burden reduction, more work remains to be done. An overly complex regulatory environment limits companies' possibilities to innovate and prosper. The REFIT-Platform has made a positive contribution to reduce regulatory burdens. We therefore recommend that this bottom-up system is continued by the next Commission. In addition, we find that more transparency on the transposition of directives in the national context is essential to avoid that burdensome regulation is unjustly attributed to the EU.

To ensure the quality and transparency of EU decision-making, consultations and evaluations should be carried out correctly, allowing sufficient time for input and should not be steered towards predetermined outcomes. As evidence-based EU decision-making is of great importance for companies, not only the Commission proposal but also the final outcome of the legislative process should in our view be covered by an impact assessment. Transparency, most notably in relation to impact assessments and trilogues, also remains a matter of importance.

Finally, EU rules should be flexible enough to allow for innovation and new business models. In particular in fast-changing market contexts such as digital, the requirements following from EU rules need to be sufficiently future-proof.

Annexed to this letter you will find our more detailed positions on these matters.

Yours sincerely,


Markus J. Beyrer