



**Ms Margrethe Vestager**  
Commissioner for Competition  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
B-1049 Brussels  
BELGIUM

25 September 2019

Dear Commissioner,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your designation as Executive Vice-President for Europe fit for the Digital Age in the new Commission and wish you the best of success for the hearing in the European Parliament. We are looking forward to be working with you also in this new position and will be approaching you to exchange further in due time.

Following the lively discussions on EU competition policy, and especially merger policy, prompted earlier this year, BusinessEurope also prepared a contribution to the very important debate on how to strengthen EU Competition policy and adapt it to developments on global markets.

We clearly recognise the fundamental role that well-functioning competition rules play in the internal market, both in terms of limiting distortions and ensuring more efficiency and innovation by allowing competitors to enter new markets and protecting consumer choice. EU Competition enforcement should not prevent individual companies, alone or together, achieving greater scale and technological leadership, enabling them to compete at global level.

We believe that the existing legislative framework gives the Commission enough discretion to ensure this and identify all the competitive constraints that firms face. Our paper (at annex) identifies small adjustments necessary in EU Competition policy so it can function effectively, encouraging growth and preventing damage to businesses in the wider economy. The main suggestions are to ensure:

- Merger rules should define markets in a realistic way, taking account of global market conditions and adopting a dynamic analysis and long-term view to assess the existence of competitive pressure;
- Checks and balances in EU Competition law procedures are improved to secure a proper due process;
- State aid policy supports good aid and investment in research and innovation projects that contribute to growth, jobs and EU global competitiveness.

We hope that you appreciate our views and are looking forward to discussing this further with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

  
Markus J. Beyrer