



19 October 2012

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**MEETING OF PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS MR DIMITRIS CHRISTOFIAS WITH BUSINESSEUROPE DIRECTOR GENERAL PHILIPPE DE BUCK AND CYPRUS EMPLOYERS AND INDUSTRIALISTS FEDERATION (OEB) DIRECTOR GENERAL MR MICHAEL PILIKOS, 19 OCTOBER 2012**

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- **Growing out of the crisis** - On 12 September 2012, BUSINESSEUROPE sent a letter to the President of Cyprus in which it presented its priorities based on an action plan entitled “**Growing out of the Crisis: 5 steps to restore confidence**”. These five steps aim at doubling Europe’s growth rate to 2.5%:
  1. Safeguard the Euro;
  2. Improve public finances and structural reforms;
  3. Promote private investment;
  4. Unleash the Single Market;
  5. Expand EU external trade.
  
- BUSINESSEUROPE also sent a letter to the European Council meeting on 18-19 October 2012 ([here](#)) in which it focused its message on the four pillars of the report “**Towards a Genuine Economic and Monetary Union**”:
  1. An Integrated Financial Framework;
  2. An Integrated Budgetary Framework;
  3. An Integrated Economic Policy Framework;
  4. Strengthening Democratic Legitimacy and Accountability.
  
- **EU budget 2014-2020** - A greater share of the EU budget for 2014-2020 must be geared towards competitiveness, growth, infrastructure, research, innovation, development and job creation support. The results of ongoing negotiations on the **Multiannual Financial Framework** must safeguard the means foreseen for:
  - **Horizon 2020**: the funding of € 80 billion proposed is a first necessary commitment to translate political priorities into reality. This is essential to fill the gap in investments in R&I with other developed, and to reach the objective of bringing combined public and private R&D investment levels to 3% of EU GDP agreed as part of the EU 2020 strategy.
  
  - **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**: it reflects a clear commitment to act on the European missing links. A decrease in this envelop (€ 50 billion in total) would send the wrong message to private investors, whose action is crucial to reach the necessary level of investments to develop transport, energy and ICT networks.



- **Competitiveness and SME programme (COSME)**: it contains powerful instruments for addressing the growing constraints that hamper access to finance for dynamic SMEs. Given the high leveraging effect of the COSME financial instruments, their specific share (i.e. €1.4 billion for equity and loan facilities out of € 2.5 billion in total) should be safeguarded and even increased.
  
- **Single Market** - BUSINESSEUROPE supports the focus on the twelve levers and key actions set out in the **Single Market Act II**, and in particular, the measures aimed at:
  - developing transport networks;
  - building the single market for energy;
  - facilitating access to finance for SMEs;
  - creating a true digital single market;
  - making better use of digital tools in areas such as e-procurement and services.
  
- **Industrial policy** - The recent EC communication “A Stronger European Industry for Growth and Economic Recovery” is an important step to improve framework conditions for industrial investment and innovation in Europe. It represents an effort to keep industrial policy at the heart of European policy-making. The key will now be to turn words into deeds and make effective competitiveness checks on every EU policy proposals.
  
- **Unitary Patent** - BUSINESSEUROPE looks forward to a rapid adoption of the unitary patent, including the unified patent court, crucial for the development of innovation in Europe, by the end of the Cyprus presidency.

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