



Mr Krzysztof Paszyk

Minister of Economic Development and  
Technology

Chair of the EU Competitiveness Council

11 March 2025

Dear Minister,

## **Key messages to EU Competitiveness Council of 12 March 2025**

BusinessEurope supports the endeavour to push concrete decisions improving competitiveness without any delay. The very rich EU Competitiveness Council agenda, from industrial policy to Single Market to regulatory burden reduction issues, is a clear demonstration of strong commitment by the Polish EU Council Presidency which the European business community strongly welcomes.

### **Clean Industrial Deal Action Plan on Affordable Energy**

First, BusinessEurope lends its support to the Clean Industrial Deal and the Action Plan on Affordable Energy. They recognize the need to create a successful business case in the energy and climate transition. They rightly set as priorities the reduction of energy prices, de-risking private investments, speeding up permits, and the creation of markets for low-carbon and circular products. However, it is unlikely that the measures announced so far will be enough to lower energy costs in the short-term, and we cannot wait until the end of the year for critical actions like those expected to be included in the Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act. We need tangible actions sooner than that. Moreover, the proposed measures are unlikely to put the EU back on track for the urgently needed scale-up of the European hydrogen market. A course correction toward true technology neutrality is urgently needed – not just for hydrogen, but for the entire energy transition.

### **Single Market Strategy**

Until Europe has met its goals of rearmament, the Single Market remains the EU's most important asset to defend its interest and sovereignty on the global stage. Everything possible must now be done to strengthen this asset and unleash the massive unused potential that has been underlined for years. In the interest of the future of the whole of Europe, the EU institutions must work together in a spirit of true cooperation to bring down remaining barriers to cross-border business and further advance integration as fast as possible. National particular interest must no longer serve as pretext to block reform and the liberalisation of markets.



Therefore, BusinessEurope expects that the EU Competitiveness Council will agree that the upcoming Single Market Strategy should be an action-driven paper spelling out what Single Market barriers the EU will remove and when. We reiterated this call in a joint statement with our partner business organisations at EU level on 11 February<sup>1</sup> as well as at the Single Market Forum in Krakow on 17 February.

BusinessEurope fully supports the publication of the Single Market Strategy in June at the latest. In view of the deteriorating Single Market integration, the business community is urging the EU to focus the strategy on strengthening Single Market governance at all levels, from EU institutions to national authorities, and on removing barriers to the traditional free movements of services, people and goods.

The liberalisation of services, notably those that are key to the manufacturing industry (such as engineering, industrial installation and maintenance, logistics), as well as the pending revision of the product market access rules (New Legislative Framework for Products, NLF) are key to the further integration of the 'classical' Single Market. In this context, it is crucial that the NLF revision, which addresses the market access fundamentals, is not separated from the foreseen revision of Standardisation Regulation.

In addition, BusinessEurope calls on the EU to make the upcoming revision of the Public Procurement Directives part of the overall work on the Single Market. It must be ensured that the upcoming initiative does not lose sight of the major objective to increase competition and facilitate procurement across borders as well as SME participation, without becoming a protectionist instrument among Member States.

### **The 'omnibuses' of simplification**

The European Commission has launched what it calls an "unprecedented simplification effort" to reduce unnecessary regulatory costs and burdens for European companies and make the European marketplace more competitive. To turn this announcement into reality, the buy-in of the European legislators as well as national administrations is imperative. Without their strong support, the EU simplification agenda will fail. The European business community therefore calls on Member States to take seriously their responsibility to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy as ambitiously as possible and avoid the creation of new burdens - both on the EU level and nationally. Europe must once again become the best place in the world to do business.

We welcome the publication of the first two omnibuses on simplification by the European Commission as the first step on the way to regulatory burden reduction. However, there are some key areas in which the first Omnibus has fallen short, such as the lack of harmonised approach to Due Diligence. While calling on European institutions to swiftly adopt the first omnibus we need co-legislators to address remaining issues.

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<sup>1</sup> [joint business statement on the upcoming horizontal single market strategy](#)



On 22 January BusinessEurope has made 68 concrete suggestions<sup>2</sup> on how to address the most pressing regulatory burdens in 11 policy areas. These suggestions are designed in a way that will allow to achieve the policy goals of the twin transition without disincentivising investments needed for the development and deployment of green and digital technologies in the EU. The suggestions include our view on how the CS3D, CSRD, Taxonomy and CBAM frameworks can be improved as well.

We need a swift advancement of the decisions on the first omnibuses by the co-legislators but also a wider rolling regulatory burden reduction program with a clear target and timetable for burden reduction. We trust BusinessEurope's 68 suggestions can be a constructive contribution in this regard.

We stand ready to discuss these issues with the Council further.

Yours sincerely,

Markus J. Beyrer

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<sup>2</sup> [BusinessEurope mapping of regulatory burden.pdf](#)