

Mr Antonio Costa
President of the European Council
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
BELGIUM

23 June 2025

Dear President,

Message to EU Council meeting on 26-27 June 2025

Tangible progress in strengthening the EU's competitiveness and its internal market urgently needed

BusinessEurope's Spring Economic Outlook expects the EU economy to grow slightly by 1% in 2025. This represents a downward revision of 0.3 percentage points compared to our Autumn Economic Outlook, driven by increased economic policy uncertainty at global level and structural weaknesses.

Unity and determined action to deliver on the commitment to prioritise competitiveness and strengthen the European Union economy are more urgent than ever. A stronger economy, with competitive companies and a well-functioning Single Market, is a prerequisite for addressing our geopolitical and societal challenges. It is the basis for shouldering the huge investments needed to ensure that the European Union succeeds in its security, green and digital ambitions, while preserving its social model and continuing to stand by Ukraine and its people.

Recent proposals from the European Commission and debates in the Council are steps in the right direction. However, the high energy cost gap compared to our major competitors remains a critical concern and further measures to lower energy costs need to be taken. Moreover, efforts to reduce the regulatory burden to a digestible level for companies are still insufficient. There is an urgent need to accelerate implementation and deliver tangible results on key factors that undermine European competitiveness. Trade and investment diversification through trade agreements including speedy ratification of Mercosur is key.

We have outlined the priority actions that should to be taken in the coming months in the enclosed **Copenhagen declaration of our Council of Presidents**. The European Union can only be as strong as its economy. We rely on the European Council to drive the urgent actions needed to enhance the EU's appeal as an investment location and to address the significant challenges Europe is facing.

Yours sincerely,



Fredrik Persson
President



Markus J. Beyrer
Director General

Enclosure: Copenhagen declaration of BusinessEurope's Council of Presidents