



Ms Ursula von der Leyen

President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

20 February 2025

Dear President,

To support the European Commission in its endeavor to restore European competitiveness, BusinessEurope recently published 68 tangible solutions to simplify the European legislative framework and reduce regulatory burdens across several policy areas. While we do not question the general framework and political ambition, a strong simplification agenda is needed. Doing better with fewer and clearer norms is what European companies of all sizes are asking for.

In the coming days, the European Commission will present its first “Omnibus” proposal, addressing key legislative texts that significantly impact European businesses. These include the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), and the Taxonomy Regulation. Businesses need to see real simplification as a result of this proposal, in order to rapidly reduce the large volume of constraints on them. This should include adjusting certain implementation timetables, while maintaining the overall objectives of these legislations.

To make simplification truly effective, it must reflect the real challenges businesses face. For example, as it stands, the CSDDD will lead to 27 different national laws and hold companies liable for the actions of indirect parties – potentially millions in the case of larger companies’ supply chains – with whom they have no contractual relationships and therefore no direct influence. The first Omnibus should fix this by strengthening the Single Market Clause and limiting the main scope of the Directive to direct business partners.

Another example is the CSRD, which requires companies to assess and report on approximately 800 “data points” across all three ESG areas - environment, social and governance. The sheer volume of data that must be collected, certified and published annually is not only excessive, but there is also considerable uncertainty about its relevance in improving access to financing for the necessary transitions. Therefore, it is crucial to significantly reduce the number of data points and focus on high-quality, useful data covering the essentials.



European companies have very high expectations to see tangible improvements. On these points, and many others we have made concrete proposals to simplify the rules, without calling into question the objectives. The European business community awaits strong responses. We stand ready to constructively support you in the endeavour to make it easier to business in Europe and remain at your disposal to discuss this further if you so wish.

Yours sincerely,

Fredrik Persson
President

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General