

Mr Thomas Oberreiter
Avenue de Cortenbergh 30
Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU
1000 Brussels
BELGIUM

November 20, 2018

Dear Ambassador,

Re: Priorities for the Single Market beyond 2019

It is the time when policy makers and all interested parties start discussing what kind of actions to improve the Single Market we need in the future, given the fact that the present Commission's and Parliament's mandate is coming to its end. The road towards a better functioning and more integrated Single Market for 500 million Europeans has not been easy over the last years and turbulent times in the EU as well as globally do not make it any easier today. This is why it is indeed important for us all to engage in discussing what the Single Market should look like and bring to the European people.

We look forward to the Commission communication on the state of play of the Single Market, about to be published now. At the same time, BusinessEurope is happy to share its initial views on the future priorities for the Single Market, which is the result of discussions over the last few months (annexed).

The Single Market is the crown jewel of European integration. It is crucial that there is understanding why the Single Market is the strongest tool to reap benefits of globalisation and face the primary challenges people of Europe face, such as climate change, migration, global trade and technological rivalry tensions, and Brexit along with a generally unstable global geo-political landscape. No EU Member State is capable of addressing it all alone. Freedoms of movement of capital, goods, services, people and data in the Single Market can give huge economic power to the EU, its members individually and as a whole, in this regard. It enables faster economic and social convergence that is so needed in the EU, and we should firmly support it while saying a clear "no" to the protectionist tendencies.

The Single Market should be brought back to the top of the political agenda urgently. We stand ready to work together to maintain Europe as the best place to do business and work, and to achieve an effective and fair Single Market which brings tangible benefits to all. We look forward to further discussion by the European Council in December in this regard.

Sincerely,


Markus J. Beyrer

Annex: BusinessEurope strategy paper "Priorities for the Single Market beyond 2019".