



Mr José Manuel Barroso  
President  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi, 200  
1049 Bruxelles

21 November 2007

Dear President Barroso,

RE : SINGLE MARKET REVIEW PACKAGE

We take the opportunity of the publication of a set of proposals outlining the new approach for the Single Market to convey BUSINESSEUROPE's support for the Commission's plans to ensure policies respond to the rapidly-changing environment and deliver more for citizens and enterprises.

As you already know, BUSINESSEUROPE strongly believes that the Single Market is a key tool for realisation of the Lisbon agenda and has delivered important benefits for all, making it possible for people, goods, services and capital to circulate across frontiers. However, it is not self-perpetuating and needs a state-of-the-art framework to continue to deliver.

The Commission's package presented today if well implemented should strengthen and modernise the Single Market while reinforcing competitiveness of European companies. In particular, business welcomes stronger focus on:

- better regulation, reduction of burden and legal certainty
- the reality of SMEs in the Single Market
- closer monitoring of strategic and economically important sectors
- evidence-based and impact-driven policy-making
- effective application and enforcement of existing rules
- partnership between the Commission and Member States
- international dimension of the Single Market



On services of general interest, BUSINESSEUROPE considers that the new protocol in the Reform Treaty and the existing legal framework provides adequate support for development of high-quality, affordable public services in an open and competitive market.

Looking ahead, we should not just rely on the theory of this new vision. We all, particularly national governments, must roll up our sleeves and put in place the necessary resources to turn this project from rhetoric into reality. This is what really matters for citizens and companies.

Europe needs a strong Single Market in order not to be outpaced by globalisation and be able to promote its values and coordinate global strategies. There is much to do in various fields such as services, energy, labour markets, etc., to improve the functioning of the Single Market.

We therefore would like to reaffirm our broad support for the general orientation of the package and wish every success to your Commission in the implementation.

We look forward to continuing to play an active role in the shaping of the Single Market of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and will provide you in the near future with more detailed input on the particulars of the proposed package.

Yours faithfully,

*Best regards,*

Philippe de Buck