



Mr Michel Barnier
Commissioner-Designate
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
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18 December 2009

Dear Mr Barnier,

In January 2010, you will have a hearing with the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee in the European Parliament as candidate Commissioner for Internal Market and Services in the next European Commission.

After the global financial crisis, European companies and citizens aspire to brighter economic prospects. It is through business development and investments that Europe will find the capacity to meet societal and environmental challenges successfully and at the same time rebuild a sound macroeconomic environment. Putting companies and entrepreneurs at the heart of the EU's future policy agenda will be a key success factor for Europe.

We expect from the next Commission a clear commitment to open market principles. Introducing the necessary reforms to strengthen Europe's capacity for growth and job creation will require determined action on six priority issues:

- Fixing the financial system and restoring credit flows,
- Implementing reforms to attract investment and innovation,
- Developing a viable exit strategy to excessive public deficits,
- Boosting skills and human capital for the recovery,
- Bolstering open trade and fighting protectionism,
- Ensuring global commitments to fight climate change.

Europe's social and economic model, alongside a vibrant single market, a well-functioning monetary union and solid external relations, offers a strong base for turning current challenges into opportunities for development.

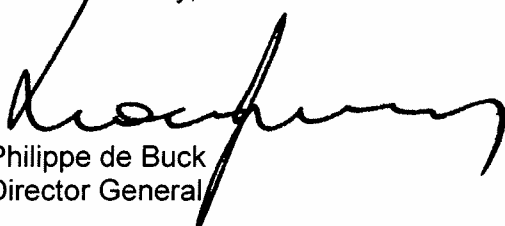
The Single Market is the engine for economic growth and employment. But it must adapt to today's challenges in an increasingly globalised world to function optimally. The Single Market needs to be strengthened to deliver more to businesses – especially SMEs – and citizens and to foster European competitiveness in the global market.


In your field of responsibility, European companies are keen to see concrete results on the following points:

1. **Removal of remaining and future barriers to movement of workers, goods, services and capital** with special attention to strategic areas like efficient network industries, services in particular an effective mutual evaluation process of the Services Directive and financial services, transport, telecommunications, company law, tax and accounting issues. The potential of public and private partnerships in delivering public services, infrastructure and research should be also exploited.
2. **Financial market reform**: restoring confidence in products, markets and financial institutions requires smart regulation that is proportionate to the size of the risk involved and mindful of the financing needs of the economy. Comprehensive impact assessments should assess the combined effect of new rules, in particular on new capital rules for banks, on the supply of credit and macro-economic trends.
3. **Better regulation**: achieving the 25% reduction of administrative burdens in 2012, carrying out impact assessment on all Commission initiatives ensuring coherence between various policies and existing legislation through a "Single Market compatibility test". More systematic support for national transposition of Community rules is also of key importance.
4. **More effective enforcement** and a stronger partnership with national enforcers via better administrative cooperation and more efficient problem-solving mechanisms especially through non-judicial tools.
5. **Promotion of innovation and knowledge**: better framework for IPRs (enhanced patent system for Europe), mobility of researchers, more investment in R&D and better use of ICT and standards.
6. **Better information and communication** particularly on the benefits for citizens and SMEs deriving from the EU Single Market. A new major study on its achievements and impact on the global market could be elaborated.

We attach more specific policy briefing on these issues and are confident that you will secure the European Parliament's endorsement to pursue a policy programme along the lines defined above.

Yours sincerely,


Philippe de Buck
Director General


Jürgen R. Thumann
President