

23 October 2013

To the Members of the European Council

As you meet in Brussels this week for the European Council, securing the economic recovery continues to be a priority for governments across the EU.

As European business leaders, we know first hand the challenges that businesses are facing in the current economic climate. One of the greatest obstacles is problematic, poorly-understood and burdensome European rules that all too often encumber business. And this has the biggest impact on the smallest companies, which we know create 80% of all new EU jobs.

In the global market place, we believe that the EU should be taking action to make European business more competitive, and not place excessive and unnecessary burdens on them that stifles growth and job creation

Proportionate, well designed legislation has a key role to play in ensuring regulatory stability for firms and in creating an even playing field for businesses that allows them to maximise the benefits of trading across borders. It's vital therefore that any EU regulation necessary for the single market is pro-growth and pro-innovation, enabling not hampering businesses to create jobs and pave the way towards economic recovery.

To this end, we welcome the Commission's recent commitments to reduce the burden of EU regulation on business, notably through its recent REFIT Communication.

However, we believe we need to go further if we are serious about a business-led economic recovery and ensure that these commitments are now transformed into action.

The recent report from a UK business taskforce includes a range of proposals for concrete EU action to remove unnecessary EU rules, regulations and practices, which are holding our companies back. These proposals could save EU businesses billions of Euros – freeing up potential for innovation, growth and job-creation.

The report also proposes a new set of principles to ensure that new EU legislation is pro-growth, and allows European businesses to COMPETE and grow within the global market.

We are now calling on you, as EU leaders, to ensure that EU regulation is focused on securing the competitiveness of European business, and to place the COMPETE principles at the heart of EU policy-making. And we urge you to demonstrate leadership by making a strong commitment at this week's European Council to identify where the burden of regulation can be reduced to allow businesses to generate the growth that will benefit us all.

Signed

Ranjit Singh	CEO	2 Sisters Food Group
Colin Coombes	Sales Manager	Abex Power Components
Abbey Walker	Sales Director	Advanced Steel Services Ltd
Farah Ramzan Golant	CEO	All3MediaGroup
Charles Philipps	Group Chief Executive	Amlin Plc
Stephen Leigh	Manager	Argus Security Systems
Andy Clarke	President and CEO	Asda Stores Ltd
Stephen Whitehead	Chief Executive	Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry
Mike Stannard	CEO	Bac2 Ltd
Rebecca Hopkins	Director	Balance Me Ltd
Clare Hopkins	Director	Balance Me Ltd
Sian Jones	Director	Balance Me Ltd
Steven Stubbs	Sales Manager	Bedford Packing
Peter Ventress	CEO	Berensden plc
Steve Bates	Chief Executive Officer	BioIndustry Association (BIA)
John Longworth	Director General	British Chambers of Commerce
Andreas Meyer-Schwickerath	Director and Member of the Board	British Chamber of Commerce, Germany
Pawel Siwecki	CEO	British Polish Chamber of Commerce, Poland
Helen Dickinson	Director General	British Retail Consortium
Sir Michael Rake	Chairman (President, CBI))	BT
Gavin Patterson	CEO	BT
Bernard Dale	Partner	Capital Connection LLP
Martin Douglas	Managing Director	Cargill Provimi UK and Ireland
John Cridland	Director General	CBI
Sir Roger Carr	Chairman	Centrica

Richard O'Connor	Co-founder	Chocolate and Love Ltd
Cecilia Leigh	Proprietor	CL Resolutions
Lara Morgan	Founder	Company Shortcuts Ltd
Joep van Beurden	CEO	CSR Plc
Brandon Bradkin	Partner	CVC
Mr Jorma Eloranta, MSc Engineering, Vuorineuvos	Chairman of the Board	Directors' Institute of Finland, Finland
Sir James Dyson	Founder	Dyson Ltd
Tom Enders	CEO	EADS
Cllr C. W. Siddall	Managing Director	Eastern Plastics Machinery Ltd
Terry Scuoler	Chief Executive	EEF (The Manufacturers' Organisation)
Gary Hendler	President and CEO	Eisai Europe
Phil Nicholls	Managing Director	Emerge IT
Rajeeb Dey	CEO	Enternships
Erik Penser	CEO	Erik Penser Bank, Sweden
Alisdair Gray	Director of European Affairs	European DIY Retail Association
Mike Cherry	National Policy Chairman	Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
Luca Cordero di Montezemolo	President/CEO	Ferrari, Italy
Dr Risto E. J. Penttilä	CEO	Finland Chamber of Commerce, Finland
Phil Orford	Chief Executive	Forum of Private Business
John Shropshire	CEO	G's Group
Duncan Aldred	Chairman and MD	GM UK
Charlotte Knight	Founder	G'Nosh Ltd
Debbie Heald	Managing Director	Heald Limited
Alan Shaw	Managing Director	Hydom

Ian Teece	Managing Director	Hydraulics & Transmissions Ltd
Helen Ibbotson	Company Director	Ibbotson Transport Limited
David Stokes	Chief Executive	IBM UK and Ireland
Chris Yates	Finance Director	Immunodiagnostic Systems Plc
Simon Walker	Director General	Institute of Directors
Wayne Edmunds	CEO	Invensys plc
Dr Mike Lynch	Founder	Invoke Capital
Russell Taylor	CEO	ITW Group plc
Dr Ralf Speth	Chief Executive Officer	Jaguar Land Rover
Dr Jane Griffiths	Company Group Chairman – Europe, Middle East and Africa	Janssen – Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson
Stephen Duckworth	Toolhire Supervisor	Jewsons Ltd
Graham Lindley	Director	Lifting Engineers
Mr Joe Tanti	CEO	Malta Business Bureau, Malta
Mr Kevin J. Borg	Director General	Malta Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, Malta
Emma Marcegaglia	CEO	Marcegaglia spa, Italy
MKB-Nederland		MKB-Nederland, Netherlands
Brynne Herbert	Founder	MoveGuides Ltd
Richard Hetherington	Director	Nationwide Civils Ltd
Stephen J Blackler	Owner	Nortech Control Systems Ltd.
Holly Tucker	CEO & Co-founder	Notonthehighstreet.com
Sophie Cornish	Director & Co-founder	Notonthehighstreet.com
Tom Hulme	Founder & MD	OpenIDEO
Roy Davis	CEO	Optos PLC
Steve Ingham	CEO	PageGroup plc
Rekha Mehr	Founder	Pistachio Rose Ltd

Dr. Henryka Bochniarz	President	Polish Confederation Lewiatan
Andrzej S Nartowski	President and CEO	Polish Institute of Directors, Poland
Tidjane Thiam	Group Chief Executive	Prudential plc
Sarah Dembitz	Founder	Saviour Snacks Ltd
J Robert Galloway	Chief Executive	Scotbeef Ltd
Jeff Lynn	CEO & Co-founder	Seedrs Ltd
Nick Giles	Co-founder	Seven Hills
Steve Daykin	CEO	Seven Publishing Group
Guy Rigby	Partner - Head of Entrepreneurial Services	Smith & Williamson LLP
Michael Hayman	Co-founder	StartUp Britain & Seven Hills
Maria Rankka	CEO	Stockholm Chamber of Commerce, Sweden
Richard Gourlay	MD	Sussex Place Ventures Ltd
Janet Coyle	MD	SVC2UK Ltd
Mike Mack	CEO	Syngenta
Dr Karl Koehler	CEO and MD	Tata Steel
Lucy Armstrong	CEO	The Alchemists
Niamh Barker	MD	The Travelwrap Company
Julian Braidwood	Managing Director	Triveritas
Richard Green	CEO	Ubisense
Vanda Hatton	Internal Sales	VAN LEEUWEN LTD
James Townshend	CEO	Velcourt Group plc
Vittorio Colao	Group Chief Executive Officer	Vodafone
VNO-NCW		VNO-NCW, Netherlands
Russell Gould	MD	WDFC UK Ltd
Robert Duxbury	Technical Director	Wedge Group Galvanizing Ltd

Ann Zitterkopf	Former President	WeeWorld
Dalton Philips	CEO	Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc
Rowena Ironside	Chair	Women on Boards UK Ltd