

socialplatform

To: José Manuel Barroso
President of the Commission

Michel Barnier
Commissioner for Internal Market

February 28, 2011

Dear President,

Dear Commissioner,

Re: response to the consultation on the Single Market Act

Today is the deadline to contribute to the Single Market Act consultation.

Social Platform is the alliance of 43 European civil society organisations active in the social sector. Our members include organisations working with or representing the marginalised and socially excluded using services and those working as non profit social service providers. Due to their European and national experience, they therefore are well positioned to contribute to the translation of the EU's inclusive objectives into the single market strategy.

The Single Market Act recognises that the internal market is not an aim in itself; on the contrary it is a tool for implementing other policies. It is also an essential element of the Europe 2020 strategy.

We welcome the Single Market Act, provided that the final outcomes effectively recognise the importance of social cohesion policy to accompany the single market and that the initiatives prioritised include those necessary to achieve a "social market economy". We appreciate that the Communication affirms that public services and social economy play an essential role to achieve this goal. However, this implies that European citizens are taken into account, not just as consumers and workers, but also as public service users.

We therefore ask that the Single Market Act reflects the inclusive pillar of the Europe 2020 strategy, whatever is the number of the Single Market Act's proposals that are going to be implemented. We also express some concerns about contradictory messages arisen during the four-month consultation period about the number of proposals which will be prioritised.

We suggest 10-11 proposals on which you should act on to ensure that the EU's inclusive objective is reflected in the single market strategy. Enclosed you will find "Social Platform response to the Single Market Act".

We hope that we can count on your full support of our proposals when implementing the Single Market Act.

Yours sincerely,



Conny Reuter

President



Pierre Baussand

Acting Director