



2 December 2024

Executive Vice-President Henna Maria Virkkunen
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Executive Vice-President Henna Maria Virkkunen,

On behalf of Chamber of Progress – a tech industry association supporting public policies to build a more inclusive society in which all people benefit from technological advancements – I write to congratulate you on your successful appointment as Executive Vice President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy

President von der Leyen has tasked the new College of Commissioners with addressing the urgent need to close Europe’s innovation gap and ensure competitiveness on the global stage, initiatives which we fully support.¹ As highlighted in her Competitiveness Compass, achieving this goal requires a cohesive approach to reducing regulatory fragmentation, fostering innovation, and creating an environment where entrepreneurs and industry leaders can thrive.²

Your leadership on tech sovereignty and competitiveness places you in a pivotal position to help Europe’s digital economy flourish. During your hearing, your commitment to cutting red tape, fostering harmonization, and supporting digital innovation aligned strongly with the goals necessary to empower Europe’s next generation of innovators. In preparation for your upcoming work, we would like to discuss with you three priorities for achieving this vision.

A Single Framework for Startups

Europe boasts immense talent, but red tape at the national level often stifles the potential of its entrepreneurs. By advancing the creation of a single, harmonized

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<https://progresschamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Chamber-of-Progress-Letter-to-President-Von-der-Leyen-2-7-24.pdf>

² Speech by President von der Leyen at the European Parliament Plenary on the new College of Commissioners and its programme (27 November 2024), available [here](#).

framework for startups - referred to as “EU Inc.” or the “28th regime” - you can remove significant barriers to growth. As you noted in your hearing, "we should make sure always that our legal framework is encouraging investments and innovations in Europe." A 28th regime would simplify business formation and scaling across borders, enabling startups to thrive, while giving European entrepreneurs the tools they are demanding to be global leaders in innovation.³

Your proposal for a “business wallet” demonstrates your commitment to practical solutions that can complement the 28th regime by providing “a single point of entry for every request that reaches a company from the side of governments in Europe.” We encourage you to support Commissioner McGrath to develop the 28th regime from concept to reality, recognizing that Europe's technological sovereignty depends on our ability to nurture and attract the world's most innovative founders.

Prioritising Innovation

During your hearing, you emphasised the vital importance of creating an environment where European innovation can flourish. We strongly support your vision that “regulation is often needed for innovations, because it's also important from the business perspective, that they have legal certainty.” However, as the Draghi report highlighted, excessively precautionous regulations have imposed real costs on Europe's competitiveness. The only certainty we have been afforded is that innovation will be treated with suspicion.

As the Commission implements and enforces Europe's digital rulebook - from competition law to the AI Act - we encourage you to ensure that innovation defenses and justifications receive serious consideration. We support your vision of Europe as “an AI continent – the best place in the world for developing trustworthy and advanced AI.” A more balanced approach to enforcement that recognizes innovation's central role in achieving technological sovereignty will help make this a reality.

Establish a Compliance One-Stop-Shop

Legal uncertainty and fragmented enforcement create significant obstacles for businesses attempting to scale in Europe. Companies often face conflicting decisions from multiple regulators, forcing them to navigate disparate requirements and forestalling innovation. When different authorities take

³ <https://www.eu-inc.org/petition>

separate decisions over the same business conduct, it creates unnecessary complexity that diverts resources from innovation to compliance.

Your commitment to “reduce bureaucracy and administration” and “make Europe an easier place for businesses” presents an opportunity to address this challenge. A compliance one-stop-shop, where enforcers collaborate to harmonize guidance and resolve overlapping concerns, would significantly reduce administrative burdens. As you noted in your hearing, businesses need “legal certainty when they are investing into some new ideas.” A one-stop-shop would provide this certainty by creating a single forum where businesses can get clear guidance before launching new products and services. By bringing regulators together to identify and resolve concerns efficiently, we can ensure compliance requirements don't become a barrier to innovation. This initiative would complement your broader efforts to make Europe's regulatory framework more innovation-friendly while maintaining necessary protections.

If there is anything we can do to help you progress on these priorities, please rest assured that we will. Chamber of Progress looks forward to supporting your Commission in advancing technological progress during the next five years, and beyond. We wish you the greatest success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kayvan Hazemi-Jebelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kayvan Hazemi-Jebelli
Senior Director for Europe