



2 December 2024

Commissioner Ekaterina Spasova Gecheva-Zaharieva
European Commission
Brussels, Belgium

Dear Commissioner Ekaterina Spasova Gecheva-Zaharieva,

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 Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation.

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 portfolio for Startups, Research and Innovation places you in a pivotal position to empower Europe's entrepreneurs. Your deep connection to the startup ecosystem and commitment to working closely with the sector will put you in an ideal position to advance three priorities essential for unleashing Europe's innovative potential.

A Single Framework for Startups

Europe boasts immense talent, but red tape at the national level often stifles the potential of its entrepreneurs. Your commitment to work with the Commissioner for Justice to propose a 28th regime framework in 2025 demonstrates your understanding of this urgent need. A 28th regime would simplify business

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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](#).

formation and scaling across borders, enabling startups to thrive while giving European entrepreneurs the tools they need to compete globally.

The EU Inc petition has garnered substantial support across the continent, highlighting the urgency of this reform.³ European founders and entrepreneurs have spent years documenting the barriers they face and petitioning for harmonized rules that would enable them to scale. The problems are well understood - now is the time for action.

Providing space for the startup community to share further input must be matched by genuine urgency in implementation. The cost of delay and waiting another five years would be far greater than the cost of a regime that is over-inclusive, or too generous to startups. If there is any doubt, please err on the side of Europe's entrepreneurs.

Prioritising Innovation

Your appointment as Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation reflects the elevated importance of innovation in the new Commission's priorities. Your vision for positioning Europe as an innovation powerhouse, coupled with your practical focus on removing barriers for innovators and researchers, signals a welcome shift in approach. However, as the Draghi report highlighted, excessively precautionary regulations have imposed real costs on Europe's competitiveness. Europe cannot afford to maintain a regulatory environment where innovation is treated with reflexive suspicion.

As the Commission's key advocate for innovation, your voice will be crucial in ensuring innovation receives proper consideration as your colleagues implement and enforce Europe's digital rulebook - from competition law to the AI Act. The evidence is clear that overly cautious enforcement focused on theoretical harms has hindered Europe's competitiveness. We encourage you to champion an innovation-first approach within the College of Commissioners, helping to ensure that Europe's regulatory frameworks enable rather than inhibit breakthrough technologies and business models.

Just as DG COMP has a unit set-up to cross-check decisions of the case teams for their economic soundness, there should be a unit responsible for cross-checking legislative proposals and interventions for their impact on innovation.

³ <https://www.eu-inc.org/petition>

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.

A compliance one-stop-shop, where enforcers collaborate to harmonize guidance and resolve overlapping concerns, would significantly reduce administrative burdens. Your commitment to drastically simplify processes and improve coordination between Commission services provides an excellent foundation for this initiative. By bringing regulators together to identify and resolve concerns efficiently, we can ensure compliance requirements don't become a barrier to innovation. Supporting your fellow Commissioners in 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