



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 24 September 2018
(OR. en)

12432/18

COMPET 616
MI 656

NOTE

From: CZ Delegation
To: Council

Subject: Outcome of a conference on the EU Single Market commemorating its 25th anniversary (Prague, 8 June 2018)
- Information from the Czech delegation

Delegations will find attached an Information note from the CZ Delegation on the subject mentioned above.

The Czech Republic would like to inform the Competitiveness Council about its activities in promoting the EU Single Market.

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of the EU Single Market and taking stock of its achievements and persisting shortcomings, a conference called “The Single Market: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” was held on 8 June 2018 in Prague. Speakers included Commissioner for the Internal Market, Industry, Enterprise and SMEs, Ms. Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Mr. Tomáš Hüner, and Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr. Pavel Telička.

The conference participants not only looked retrospectively at how difficult it was to provide services in other European countries before the Czech Republic joined the EU in 2004, but they also discussed both visions for future functioning of the EU Single Market and possible approaches to overcome existing barriers and restrictions. The participants shared the view that mainly completion of the EU Single Market in services should be supported, since free provision of services considerably lags behind the other freedoms.

The conference was a very good opportunity to provide the Commission with an input for its ongoing assessment of remaining barriers in the EU Single Market to be presented to the December 2018 European Council as requested by our leaders in March 2018. As such, it fits into numerous Member States’ activities related to promotion and deepening of the EU Single Market as described for instance in the like-minded ministerial letter of last June. These activities should also serve as an input for the priorities of the next European Commission when it comes to deepening of the EU Single Market.