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NOTE

From: DK, NL, SE and UK Delegations
To: Council
Subject: **Results of Frontrunners Projects to improve the Single Market**

Delegations will find attached a Note from the DK, NL, SE and UK delegations on the results of the four Frontrunners Projects.

Competitiveness Council, 2 March 2015**Results of Frontrunners Projects to improve the Single Market**

On 26 May 2014, the Frontrunners group presented their initiative in the Competitiveness Council. The aim of the initiative is to make the Single Market work better for business and consumers and to solve concrete problems faced by business and consumers within the Single Market. The Frontrunners approach can be seen as complementary to the traditional European legislative process in the area of the Single Market. It is an open initiative, based on a bottom-up approach with stakeholders where own responsibility for Member States is key. A variety of tools, such as “improved coordination”, exchange of best practices and peer pressure, are used to ensure that every effort is made to realise the economic potential of cross-border trade within the Single Market. As well as working together as Member States, we work closely with stakeholders to identify priority areas. This ensures that the results of the initiatives meet the demands of society at all relevant levels. The group presented its ideas to stakeholders in various meetings.¹ The ideas have been very well received by stakeholders so far.

The group finalised its work on the four projects it had identified in May 2014: the Single Market Centre, Points of Single Contact, the recognition of professional qualifications and barriers to cross-border e-commerce. The Frontrunners present a new form of cooperation. The projects have led to a better cooperation between systems and people. This improved interconnectedness will help consumers and businesses in the EU Single Market. During the Competitiveness Council, the results will be shared with all Member States.

¹ The Frontrunners project was explained during a meeting with EFTA, EuroCommerce, a stakeholder meeting organised by the Netherlands and Sweden on cross-border e-commerce, an EUGO meeting on the Points of Single Contact and a conference on the EU in a Digital Age organised by the UK and Denmark in February this year.