



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 January 2014
(OR. en)**

5431/14

**COMPET 29
MI 51**

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Note on the Commission's 2014 work plan for reporting on national reforms in services markets

Delegations will find in Annex a Presidency note on the Commission's 2014 work plan for reporting on national reforms in services markets to be discussed at the meeting of the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth on 31 January 2014.

Presidency note on the Commission's 2014 work plan for reporting on national reforms in services markets

The European Council Conclusions of 25th October 2013 highlighted the need to call both the Council and the Commission, to provide yearly progress reports on national reform of services, including in individual sectors. To make this process successful, the European Council invited the Commission to make proposals by March 2014: "*The European Council invites the Commission and the Council to provide yearly progress reports on national reforms on services, including in individual sectors, and invites the Commission to make proposals by March 2014.*"

The Presidency would like to recall that the European Parliament has also stressed the need to reap the full economic benefits on services¹. While recalling the importance of services and the benefits that an ambitious implementation of the services directive may bring, the European Parliament has asked both the Commission and the Council to include, where appropriate, services in country-specific recommendations and encourage Member States to adopt and implement long-term growth policies.

Services account for 71% of GDP on average in all the Member States; service activities falling within the scope of the Services Directive² cover 46 % of the EU GDP.³ It is widely recognised that services generate employment and have a great growth potential.⁴ Therefore an ambitious implementation of the Services Directive remains a priority.⁵

-
- ¹ Corazza Bildt report on the Internal Market for Services: State of Play and Next Steps (2012/2144(INI) and Cofferati report on the Single Market Governance within the European Semester 2014 (ongoing)
- ² Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on Services in the Internal market, of 27.12.2006
- ³ Source: Eurostat latest figures (2010 covering 27 MS)
- ⁴ Doc. 16171/13 - Annual Single Market Integration Report of November 2013, COM (2013) 785 final
- ⁵ Doc. 11145/12 - Commission Communication COM/2012/0261 (final) on the Implementation of the Services Directive "A partnership for new growth in services 2012-2015".

A call for national reforms has already been made in the Annual Growth Surveys for 2013 and 2014 - notably in the Annual Single Market Integration Reports and in Country-Specific Recommendations.

The Presidency understands that the Commission is about to prepare a work plan for March 2014 on reporting on national reforms progress in services markets, including in individual sectors. The Presidency encourages the Commission and Member States to work in partnership, as already highlighted in the 2012 Commission Communication on the Implementation of the Services Directive.

The Presidency considers that the meeting of the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth of 31 January should give the Commission the opportunity to explain possible next steps. In this regard, the discussion could be structured around the following issues and questions:

- *Could Member States provide feedback on the conclusions drawn by the Annual Growth Survey⁶ and the Annual Single Integration Report⁷ published in November 2013 as regards services and the implementation of the Services Directive?*
- *Could Member States provide recent information and data about current reforms and reform plans in services sectors in their jurisdiction, including in particular information on the specific services sectors covered? Particular attention could be given to steps taken by a Member State towards the ambitious implementation of the Services Directive and in the context of country specific recommendations agreed within the European Semester.*
- *Which are, in the view of Member States, the main work streams and objectives the Commission together with Member States should pursue in the future in relation to national reforms on services in the next two years?*

⁶ Doc. 15803/13 - Commission Communication COM(2013) 800 final on the Annual Growth Survey 2013

⁷ Doc. 16171/13 - Annual Single Market Integration Report of November 2013, COM (2013) 785 final