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**NOTE**

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From: Lithuanian delegation  
To: Council

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Subject: Results of the business survey on the Single Market barriers  
*-Information from the Lithuanian delegation*  
*-Any Other Business*

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Lithuanian delegation with a view to the meeting of the Council (Competitiveness) on 27 February 2020.

## **Results of the business survey on the Single Market barriers – Information from the Lithuanian delegation**

Since 2014 EU leaders in the conclusions of the **European Council** has called 11 times to address the problems of Single Market functionality and cope with the remaining (and or re-emerging) barriers in the EU internal market.

According to various studies, Single Market remains fragmented and it does not reach its full potential. Improving the functioning of the Single Market for goods could generate 183 bn euro per year, and the gain of further integrating services sector could even reach up to 338 bn euro per year additional value added for EU economy.

Therefore, following similar actions taken by some other Member states, Lithuania has conducted a survey on the barriers that Lithuanian businesses are encountering in EU Single Market while expanding their cross-border activities. The survey was launched on November 2019 and concluded on 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019. More than 80 respondents from various economic sectors took part in the survey, while majority of respondents were SMEs. The results show that 1) majority of businesses are experiencing obstacles while entering the market of another EU Member State, and 2) for around 50% of them it takes minimum one year (and longer) to entry the market. Business representatives has identify 5 most common and most critical barriers:

1. Problems with recognition of goods;
2. Language barriers;
3. Regulation differences across the EU;
4. Lack of online services and
5. Complicated licencing procedures.

The survey was carried-out in the light of recent initiatives by the Commission to identify remaining barriers in the Single Market, and we hope that the results, together with the results of similar surveys from the other Member States, will help the Commission to get a better perspective on businesses' experience on the existing barriers in different EU regions.

In conjunction with this, on 13 March, Lithuania is organizing a high level event in Vilnius, dedicated to discuss recent business surveys, concluded by several Member States with a view to identify common problems and discuss possible solutions with the business representatives

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