



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels,
C/2009/*

Dear Mr. Sobotka,

Thank you for your Resolution on COM(2008)394 on the Communication of the European Commission on a "Small Business Act for Europe".

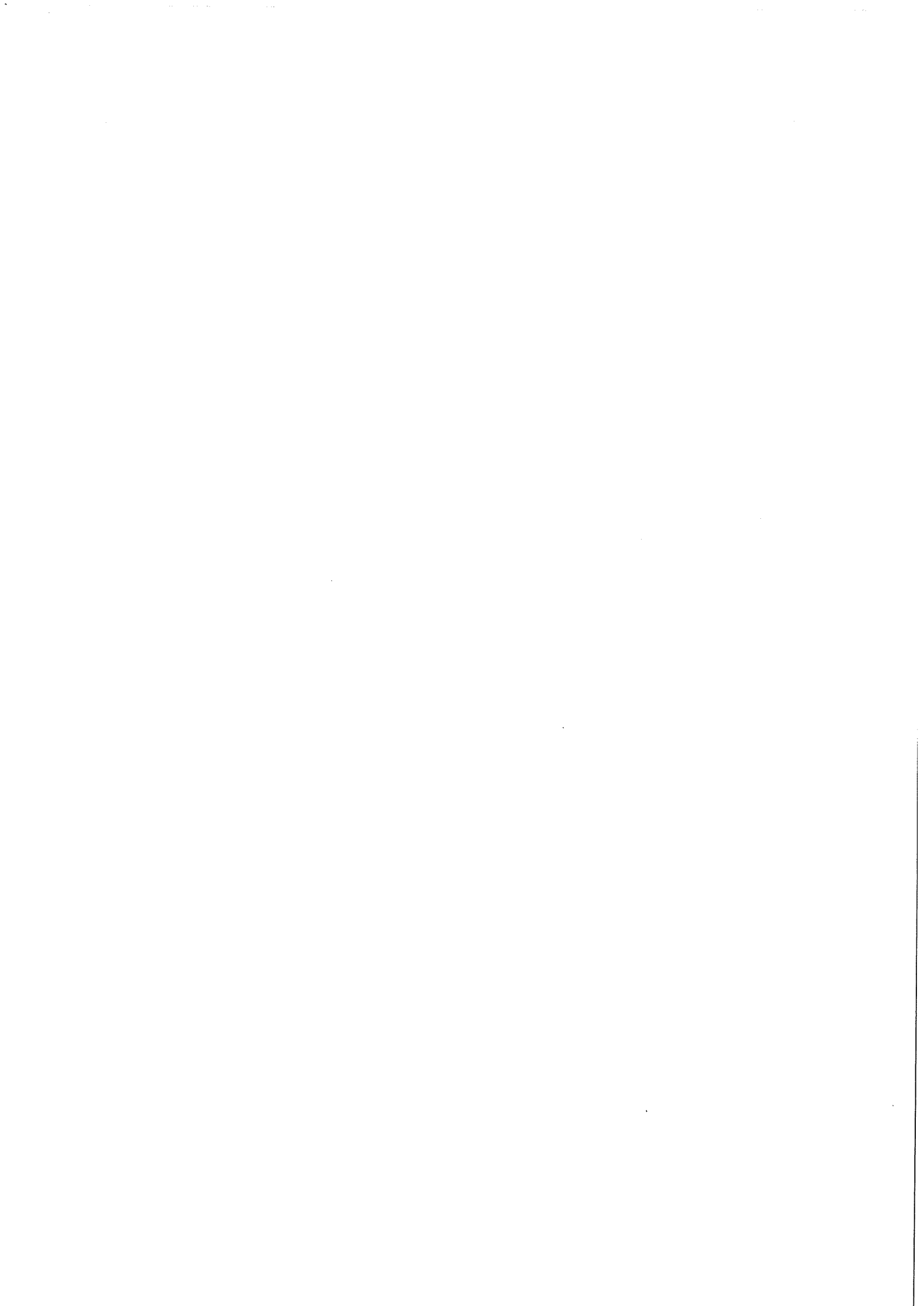
In line with the Commission's decision to encourage National Parliaments to react to its proposals to improve the process of policy formulation, we welcome this opportunity to respond to your comments. I enclose the Commission's response. I hope you will find it a valuable contribution to your own deliberations.

I look forward to developing our policy dialogue further in the future.

Yours sincerely

*Margot WALLSTRÖM
Vice-President of the European Commission*

*Mr. Přemysl Sobotka
President of the Senate
of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*





Brussels, March 2009

**COMMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON A RESOLUTION FROM
THE CZECH SENATE**

**COM(2008)394 – COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE
COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS – A SMALL
BUSINESS ACT FOR EUROPE.**

The Commission would like to warmly thank the Senate of the Czech Republic for its resolution on the Commission communication establishing the “Small Business Act” for Europe (SBA)¹.

The high consideration given by the Senate to the SBA reflects the importance of this initiative. The Commission sees the SBA implementation as crucial to strengthen the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

The comments of the Senate focus on several points:

- a) The Senate considers it appropriate that the SBA is a politically binding document.
- b) The Senates deems that the SBA should be implemented in its entirety to enable SMEs to take advantage of the Internal Market.
- c) The Senate considers that the SBA implementation follow-up both at EU and at national level should be part of the Lisbon Strategy process where it should be dedicated an independent section.

The Commission comments on the resolution are the following:

a) A politically binding document

The Commission welcomes the support of the Senate as to establishing an SBA for Europe that is politically binding at the highest extent. At its meeting on 1-2 December 2008, the Competitiveness Council adopted conclusions on the SBA including an SBA Action Plan which was subsequently also adopted by the European Council in December 2008.

¹ COM(2008) 394 final

b) No “cherry picking” implementation

The Commission welcomes the Senate’s view that in order to deliver the necessary results, the SBA principles and actions should be implemented in their entirety. The European Council in December 2008 gave its support for a full implementation of the SBA Action Plan.

c) Implementation of SBA

The Commission shares the Senate point of view on the effective implementation of the SBA within the framework of the Growth and Jobs Agenda at Community and national level. The economic crisis puts more focus on the European Recovery Plan and the short term actions covered by the SBA Action Plan. However, all actions including the medium and longer term ones need to be part of the Lisbon process.

d) Conclusions

The Commission welcomes the Senate opinion as strongly supportive of the Small Business Act.

The Commission invites the Senate to participate also in the follow-up process. The follow-up of all actions at Member State level represents an important part of the SBA and the Senate may want to be involved in the process at national level.

The concrete examples of the SME policy from the Czech Republic may represent an excellent possibility for benchmarking and contribute to the exchange of best practices with other European countries. The Commission is organising a major event during Czech Presidency on 13/14 May in Prague to promote good examples of the SBA.