



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels,

24 OCT. 2011

C/2011/7620

Dear President,

The Commission welcomes the interest of the German Bundesrat in the Communication "Towards a Single Market Act: 50 proposals for improving our work, business and exchanges with one another" {COM(2010)608 final} and is grateful for the Opinion submitted by the Bundesrat in this context.

Following the conclusion of a wide-ranging four-month public debate on the Communication, the Commission adopted on 13 April 2011 a final Communication on the "Single Market Act. Twelve levers to boost growth and strengthen confidence. Working together to create new growth" {COM(2011)467 final}. The Communication was prepared taking into account the valuable contributions received during the debate, including from the Bundesrat. These contributions will be taken into account in the forthcoming formulation and adoption of the individual policy and legislative initiatives included in the Communication.

The Single Market Act has identified twelve priority areas ('levers'). In each case, a key action has been selected. The adoption of these key actions by the European Parliament and Council, by the end of 2012 at the latest, is expected to make a fundamental contribution to boosting growth, creating jobs and reinforcing citizens' confidence in the single market. As highlighted in the Opinion, this is an important factor for the success of the European single market. For each 'lever', additional important actions are also included in order to ensure coherent and comprehensive policy action. Moreover, the Single Market Act also attaches great importance to the governance of the single market and to the implementation of existing and future legislation.

The Commission will adopt the necessary proposals before the end of 2011 and will work in partnership with the European Parliament and Council for the adoption of the twelve key actions in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the single market in a concrete and dynamic way.

The Single Market Act aims at generating sustainable, smart and inclusive growth, based on a highly competitive social market economy. It includes a lever on social cohesion, the importance of which is acknowledged in the Opinion. The Commission has also taken due note of the Bundesrat's remarks on the significance of cohesion policy for the further development of the single market.

*Ms Hannelore KRAFT
President of the German Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3 - 4
D-10117 Berlin*

The Bundesrat's Opinion invites the Commission to comply strictly with rules governing Union competences and with the subsidiarity principle when drafting the proposed legislative proposals. In exercising its right of initiative, the Commission fully respects these fundamental principles and will provide clear explanations in this regard in the impact assessments and the explanatory memoranda accompanying the individual legislative proposals flowing from the Single Market Act.

The Commission stands ready to provide further information and clarifications, as necessary as part of the ongoing political dialogue with national parliaments.

You can find information related to the Single Market Act at this Internet page of the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/smact/index_en.htm

I am looking forward to continuing our dialogue regarding this matter.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*