



Brussels, 11.9.2017  
C(2017)6076 final

*Dear Presidents,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Congreso de los Diputados and the Senado for their Opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council to empower the competition authorities of the Member States to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market {COM(2017) 142 final}.*

*One of the Commission's strategic objectives is to achieve a new boost for jobs, growth and investment. To achieve this objective, it is essential to ensure the effective and coherent application of European Union competition law by national competition authorities and national courts. Since the entry into force of Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003, national competition authorities have applied European Union competition rules alongside the Commission. Now, European Union competition rules are being enforced on a scale which the Commission could never have achieved on its own, with national competition authorities accounting for 85% of all decisions applying European Union competition rules.*

*However, national competition authorities still face issues that prevent them from achieving their full potential. The proposed Directive would ensure that national competition authorities have the necessary guarantees of independence and resources and enforcement and fining powers they need to carry out their job. Removing these obstacles will help remove distortions to competition in the internal market for the benefit of consumers and businesses, including small and medium-sized enterprises, which currently suffer harm because of such obstacles. The proposed Directive would also enable national competition authorities to provide each other with mutual assistance, ensuring a more level playing field in the internal market.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Cortes Generales share the view that action is required at the level of the EU, rather than by each Member State individually, in order best to ensure that national competition authorities effectively enforce EU competition rules and to bolster the functioning of the internal market.*

*The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Margarethe Vestager  
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