## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**



Brussels, 11.01.2012 C(2012) 38 final

Dear Lord Roper,

The Commission welcomes the interest of the House of Lords 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 submission of its opinion on the Communication. Allow me to start by apologising for the extremely long delay in replying to your opinion.

Following the conclusion of a four-month wide-ranging public debate, 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 by taking into account the contributions received during the debate, including from your Chamber. These contributions will also be valuable in the formulation and adoption of the individual policy and legislative initiatives included in the Communication.

The Single Market Act has identified twelve priority areas ('levers') and a key action was selected for each of them whose adoption by the end of 2012 is considered to be a fundamental contribution to boost growth, create jobs and reinforce citizens' confidence in the single market. For each 'lever' other important actions are also included, to ensure coherent and encompassing policy action.

The Commission will have adopted all the necessary proposals within the next few weeks and will work in partnership with the European Parliament and Council for the adoption of the twelve key actions in order to celebrate the  $20^{th}$  anniversary of the single market in a concrete and dynamic way.

The Single Market Act aims to generate sustainable, smart and inclusive growth in the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy and based on a highly competitive social market economy. The Commission therefore welcomes the emphasis of the House of Lords on the importance of using the Single Market as an important means for all Member States to boost their economies.

Finally, the Commission also attaches great importance to the governance of the single market and to the implementation and respect of existing and future legislation, and

Lord Roper
Chairman of the European Union Select Committee
House of Lords
Palace of Westminster
UK-London SW1A OPW

welcomes the emphasis put by the House of Lords on the need of improving the work on the implementation of Single Market measures. The Single Market Act devotes a full chapter to governance aspects as pre-conditions for success.

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

http://ec.europa.eu/internal\_market/smact/index\_en.htm.

I hope that you still find these comments useful, and I look forward to continuing our political dialogue on this and other matters of interest to the European citizen.

Yours sincerely,

Maroš Šefčovič Vice-President