Ms Danuta Hübner  
Member of the European Commission  
Berlaymont building  
Rue de la Loi 200  
BE-1040 Brussels

19 September 2007

Dear Commissioner Hübner,

Cohesion policy has been a major contributor to successful economic integration in a progressively enlarged European Union. But there is still much to do. Europe and its regions are faced with a constantly evolving technological environment, rising global competition for high value-added activities and increasing demographic pressures. EU cohesion policy must be better adapted to respond to these challenges.

In response to the consultation launched by the Commission in May, BUSINESSEUROPE is putting forward several key areas of action in which the EU cohesion policy should concentrate in the future:

- Foster innovation in order to boost productivity growth
- Support lifelong learning, active ageing and geographical mobility in order to tackle demographic ageing
- Anticipate structural changes and support adaptability of the labour force
- Ensure that business representatives are properly consulted in the programming process
- Improve coordination with other Community resources and policies such as state aid and enhance the capacity of administrators to engage in public-private partnerships.

A more detailed position is attached to this letter, which we hope will contribute to the outcome of the Fourth Cohesion Forum and to the debate on EU budget priorities in the forthcoming review.

BUSINESSEUROPE is committed to working closely with the EU institutions in framing an effective cohesion policy supportive to competitiveness and regional development. I look forward to continuing our close cooperation on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck