

**Mr Kyriakos Mitsotakis**  
Prime Minister of Greece

6 February 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

We commend your leadership and commitment to strengthening the competitiveness of Europe. As expressed in the joint letter of the 22 Heads of State from 20 October 2025, Europe must change course substantially and put growth and simplification at the forefront of the political agenda. The three-step approach - *review, reduce, restrain* - and the reports by Letta and Draghi provide the right direction and an overdue sense of urgency.

Your political ambition closely aligns with the main concerns of our more than 25 million companies across Europe. However, direction alone is not enough. It is now time to deliver, decisively, in unity, and without delay, to ensure the EU's growth, resilience, and security.

The EU leaders' retreat in Alden Biesen must therefore deliver concrete solutions that are felt by companies on the ground. To support your discussions, BusinessEurope has developed concrete measures in five priority areas in "From Ambition to Delivery – an urgent Call for Action in 2026", focusing on rapid progress with high-impact outcomes for European companies of all sizes.

During the EU leaders' retreat, we hope that you conclude with urgent and clear actions for the way forward on the following:

**Deepen the Single Market and reduce regulatory burden**

- Remove persisting regulatory barriers to cross-border trade, investment, labour mobility and provision of services in the Single Market, prioritising the greatest potential in industry-relevant services such as industrial installation, maintenance and logistics.
- Accelerate and simplify industrial permitting procedures in a way that leads to tangible speed-up of investments.

- **Urgently complete the announced Omnibus packages and establish a continuous stream of additional burden reduction measures.** Equally ambitious programmes must be committed to and rolled out at member state level.
- **Advance the delivery of a 28th regime.** It must effectively help companies of all sizes establish, operate and grow on the internal market.

#### **Bring down energy prices and create a business case for decarbonisation**

- **Reinforce targeted measures to reduce energy prices in the short term,** while preserving the level playing field within the internal market. Reduce overall system costs like energy taxes or network charges.
- **Boost the arsenal of carbon leakage measures and rethink the handling of free allowances** by swiftly adopting an effective CBAM export solution and reconsidering the planned phase-out of free allowances in the upcoming ETS reform.

#### **Mitigate geopolitical risk, diversify and secure market access**

- **Implement the EU-U.S. Joint Framework** agreement and find solutions to outstanding issues, particularly those regarding Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium, including the growing list of derivatives. Furthermore, intensify engagement to ensure tariff stability and further liberalisation.
- **Ensure swift implementation and the provisional application of the EU-Mercosur agreement.** The EU cannot afford another delay to the agreement which is crucial for our growth and positioning in the world. Other pending trade agreements, such as those with India, Mexico and Indonesia must also be urgently ratified and implemented.

#### **Boost investments and innovation to regain technological leadership**

**Agree to further increasing the budget for Horizon Europe beyond the level in the MFF proposal, in line with the Draghi report.** Pillar 2 must be at the core of the new programme, with an increased budget share and must be well-coordinated with the ECF and the other pillars of Horizon Europe.

- **Swiftly complete the Savings and Investment Union** by implementing agreed measures that improve access to capital markets, such as the Listing Package, to make equity and bond financing more attractive and simplify national listing rules.

- **Encourage investments by institutional investors in long-term risk capital** by addressing barriers to equity investment, for instance through prudential rules. This is pivotal for supporting venture capital and private equity industry as an essential source of risk finance and expertise for innovative companies.

**Boost employment and skills**

- Simplify social legislation starting with a “**Stop the Clock**” for the **transposition of the pay transparency directive** to provide time for necessary simplifications and reduce excessive compliance costs for companies, without jeopardising gender equality goals. For social policies, the EU needs to move towards a more trust-based approach (instead of regulating) by enhancing the role of social partners and social dialogue. The primary focus should be simultaneously on employment and productivity as a means of preserving prosperity and competitiveness.
- **Support the earmarking of at least 50% of European Social Fund** resources for skills development and reserve 15% to support skills development resources for employers' action, in the MFF negotiations.

Now we count on you to ensure that companies on the ground feel a change. The extraordinary challenges that Europe is facing need urgency and unity.

We hope the attached paper can serve as constructive input to the EU leaders' retreat in Alden Biesen. BusinessEurope stands ready to support you with data, analysis and technical expertise to help deliver on your ambition.

We thank you for your leadership and look forward to continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely,



Fredrik Persson

President of BusinessEurope



Spyros Theodoropoulos

Chairman of SEV