

CEBRE FOUNDERS' PRIORITIES FOR EU INSTITUTIONS 2019-2024

The Single Market is the engine of the European Union. It helps our companies to grow and to create and to preserve jobs. The EU should focus on better and more effective implementation of existing legislation and not adopt new legislative acts that will create barriers to business. New initiatives should not interfere with the freedom to do business and should strictly respect the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. We see room for new initiatives in areas related to technological development and the need to respond to new challenges. At the same time, the initiatives must encourage growth, not choke it. We also see the internal market from the external perspective. The common trade policy opens the door to distant markets and provides business and often also investment conditions that the Czech Republic could not negotiate on its own. It's entrepreneurs who create growth and jobs, not politicians. Politicians set the framework that should enable entrepreneurs to create growth and jobs. This concept must be promoted in the new political term 2019-2024. Business requirements should be reflected in the structure of the multiannual financial framework after 2020.

THE SINGLE MARKET must not be threatened by national barriers

- We demand an inventory of existing legislation and a focus on better implementation. We want less regulation, but in areas where it is absolutely necessary, the current regulations should be improved. EU institutions should focus on initiatives that bring added value.
- We reject protectionism and demand that the violation of EU law does not become a new normal. We do not want Member States to be divided into those that can violate European law and those of a second category from which compliance is strictly required. The Commission should regulate infringement procedures so that its decisions are delivered in a timely manner.
- We call for a proper application of the principle of the freedom to provide services and the functioning of cross-border mobility. If the revised Posting of Workers Directive proves to be severely damaging for Czech companies, we demand our MEPs to initiate a debate after its adaptation.
- The free movement of services is still hampered by notifications. Entrepreneurs want to find support from their home country, which will resolve the notifications with the authorities of the Member States in which the entrepreneur is aiming to provide services. The Commission's intention in the proposed services e-card had the potential to be an effective solution and we would welcome the chance for the discussions to return to the table.
- As for the consumer policy, we warn against initiatives that create legal uncertainty for businesses. The new Commission should withdraw the proposal for collective redress and address the issue on the basis of its 2013 recommendations.



Vladimír Dlouhý, President of the Czech Chamber of Commerce

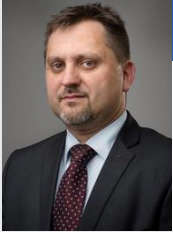
"The single market has always been and will be one of the EU's biggest assets. The next EU institutions must focus on removing barriers preventing its full development and combating some countries' protectionist tendencies."

EU TRADE POLICY must promote trade and investment openness for our companies in third markets

- We want the new institutions to continue with the trend of concluding trade and investment agreements around the world and expanding the scope for European companies.
- Trade defence instruments should be used efficiently and adequately in case the EU market is jeopardised by unfair commercial practices such as dumping in order to maintain a level playing field.
- The priority for us is to conclude agreements with Australia and New Zealand, to achieve progress with Mercosur and to open up certain African markets.
- Good relations with the US must remain among the priorities of the EU. We appreciate the EU's efforts to reach an agreement on the removal of industrial tariffs and on conformity assessment. The EU must not only act defensively.
- The EU must strive for more balanced trade relations with China and the reduction of its trade deficit. We believe that the newly elected EU institutions will be able to negotiate a balanced investment agreement with China, which will be the first step towards re-establishing EU-China relationship, and will ensure the same conditions for European companies in China, as Chinese firms have in the EU.
- The benefits and possibilities arising from the free trade agreements need to be communicated in a comprehensible way to raise awareness among companies. We expect EU institutions to support the communication of the benefits of the EU trade policy.
- We warn against Great Britain's chaotic withdrawal from the EU without a transition period and we strongly support the adoption of an exit agreement. We want the future relations with Great Britain to be as smooth as possible and to be as close as possible to the current state.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND TARGETS must be in line with EU's share of global environmental pollution and take into account the real potential of Member States

- We support the EU's efforts in the area of climate protection, but at the same time we urge the legislators to make changes in the energy sector only after an intensive debate with all stakeholders. The global situation, the real possibilities of EU Member States and the competitiveness of our industry must be taken into account.
- We want to set up a waste economy framework that will support reuse of waste over landfilling, thus opening the way to building a recycling industry that will have a positive impact on raw material efficiency and energy savings and job creation.
- We demand introducing motivational measures for industry to maximise the use of all raw materials and energy flows into production processes, thus approaching waste-free production and maximum energy efficiency, and to promote the use of secondary raw materials.



Jan Rafaj, 1st Vice-President of the Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic

"We support the transition to a low carbon economy. But this process must take into account technological development, global situation, real possibilities of the Member States and must not undermine the competitiveness of the European industry."

DATA ECONOMY requires a secure and open digital infrastructure



- We call on the EU institutions to take into account the dynamics of innovation, technological progress and the digital economy when negotiating new legislative proposals. Any future regulation must be digitally friendly.
- Given the potential negative impact of each regulatory measure, we also recommend making the most of self-regulatory instruments in the market environment and prioritising them over regulatory interventions.
- Free movement of data is essential for the future development of the European digital economy and we see it as the fifth freedom of the internal market. In order to create a truly digital single market in the EU, it is necessary to apply European regulations anchoring the free flow of data correctly while maintaining high security standards and the protection of personal data.

AVAILABLE AND QUALIFIED WORKFORCE is a guarantee of growth and employment

- The EU should encourage Member States to execute reforms of education and vocational training systems to help reduce the growing skills mismatch. The EU should support the exchange of Member States' experience in education and vocational training and help to raise primary skills across the EU through targeted policy measures.
- Connecting the European Semester with Member States' investment priorities can help to invest in high quality vocational education and training, apprenticeships, including tertiary education, digital education and further education to improve competitiveness and employability.
- Given the EU's aging population, we would also welcome better conditions for access of skilled workers from third countries onto the EU labour market through the revision of the Blue Card Directive.



Jan Wiesner, President of the Confederation of Employers' and Entrepreneurs' Associations of the Czech Republic

"The skills gap is increasing. The EU must put in place initiatives to support Member States in responding to increasing skill mismatches and boost investment in education."