Dear [Name],

I acknowledge your point that the issues of interest for the other participating business associations should also be taken into account. Since physical limits make it impossible to go through all individual submissions, my colleagues have been made aware of the need to prioritise the questions of more general interest. I have also come to the realization that some of these points are also reflected in the package presented on 16 March. For this reason, you have informed our colleagues to prepare for the two topics we have selected to be discussed for equal duration. This would also enable that all participants to take the floor.

Looking through the single market stories, we have realised that the topics covered go beyond the remit of the DGs represented last December and we have also extended the invitation to DG MOVE that will be represented by their acting deputy Director-General Herald Ruijters.

Looking forward to seeing you tomorrow,

[Name]
Subject: RE: Meeting on 25 April with Heads of Associations & ERT appraisal of EU initiatives on competitiveness

Dear [Name],

Thanks a lot! Yes, please, we would appreciate a list of participants asap and don’t mind if it’s tentative.

I discussed with [Name] and we find that the agenda should focus mostly on the recommendations and barriers regarding the Single Market from all Associations who signed the Joint Statement. We all prefer to keep the focus of the discussion as much as possible on how to deepen the Single Market and what can be done to strengthen the EU’s long-term competitiveness.

We would recommend to limit the time spent on the other Commission initiatives that were released in March (NZIA, CRMA, electricity market reform) as we all believe that these initiatives divert the focus away from what really needs to be done to improve the EU’s competitiveness, in particular the removal of barriers to the Single Market across all policy fields and for all companies doing business in the EU (which requires a much more encompassing exercise than reducing reporting requirements by 25%). This is the gist of ERT’s analysis of all Commission initiatives in March and also of the 1 slide I shared with you earlier (see attached). Would it be possible to add this slide to the background materials for participants or print it for the meeting?

We would indeed welcome a conversation on concrete barriers / stories / case studies on the single market, and we are as ERT of course pleased that you would give feedback on the 30 stories from ERT CEOs. I would however also appeal to give equal attention to the publications from all Associations (I referred in an earlier mail to the annex of the Joint Statement where they are all listed) as they all deserve thorough follow-up and reflection by the Commission’s services.

We hope it would be possible to take these perspectives into account when preparing the meeting?

Many thanks, and we very much look forward to the meeting!

Kind regards.

[Signature]

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From: [Name]@ec.europa.eu
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:31 PM
To: [Name]@ec.europa.eu
Cc: [Name]@ert.eu

Subject: RE: Meeting on 25 April with Heads of Associations & ERT appraisal of EU initiatives on competitiveness

Dear [Name],

Apologies for the late reply. I was hoping to be able to give you all the necessary details, but it looks like I need some more time to check. I will come back to you at the latest on Monday.
I can already confirm that Elisabeth and [redacted] discussed the two points on the agenda. I would stick to these and I will let you know how we see the discussions unfolding on Monday. This is because the choreography is more complicated on our side. As for the participants on our side, the President’s cabinet, as well as the cabinets of the Executive Vice-President Vestager and Commissioner Breton will be represented. The names of the participants from the DGs will be communicated to you on Monday because we are cross-checking as to the responsibilities for the single market stories. We will need to make a selection so as to be able to keep within the time planned for this meeting. In any case, I can tell you that there won’t be many differences as compared to last time.

I also grateful for the background documents. These are most useful and sufficient, but please do let us know in case of last-minute developments or announcement.

Please see below the points on the agenda as we communicated internally:

**Agenda**

1. *Discussion on the March proposals: Single Market, long-term competitiveness, Net zero industry act, critical raw materials, electricity market design and temporary crisis and transition state aid framework - Presentation by COM and reactions from ERT*
2. *Selected ERT CEO stories. (We will get back to you in due time with the lists of stories to be discussed to allow you to prepare) [https://ert.eu/single-market/stories/](https://ert.eu/single-market/stories/)*

Have a nice afternoon,

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From: [redacted]@ert.eu
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 1:09 PM
To: [redacted]@ec.europa.eu; [redacted]@ec.europa.eu; [redacted]@ert.eu
Cc: [redacted]@ec.europa.eu; [redacted]@ert.eu
Subject: FW: Meeting on 25 April with Heads of Associations & ERT appraisal of EU initiatives on competitiveness

Daer [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] and Elisabeth had a good call yesterday. Thanks for arranging it.

We will further prepare from our side and would like to ask:

1) In terms of participation, did you invite the same DGs again as for the previous meeting (on 15 December) plus cabinet members (VDL, Vestager and Breton)? When you could share a (tentative) list of participants?
2) Is there a **deadline** for us to communicate the in-person participation? Those who are certain are:
   a. ERT: [redacted] and myself
   b. Business Europe: [redacted]
   c. EUROCHAMBRES: [redacted]
I've mentioned that there would not be a digital possibility to participate but Elisabeth had offered the option of listening in and having a sherpa representing. I've asked Digital Europe and Eurocommerce if they would like to listen in and/or send a sherpa.

3) I understood that the **focus** of the meeting is in line with how it was communicated earlier by you, [redacted]
   a. Single market and competitiveness
   b. Single market stories / examples of barriers
Is this also still your understanding?

4) Shall we use the following draft agenda?
   - Opening by DSG Elisabeth Werner
   - Interventions by the Associations [the recommendation was to focus on the (positives & shortcomings in the) Communications from March on the Single Market and Long-term competitiveness, emphasise the need for proper follow-up to the Joint Statement on the Single Market by the business associations and discuss implementation on reducing the burdens for companies (e.g. reporting requirements by 25%)]
   - Reactions by DSG Elisabeth Werner + representatives by DGs
   - Q&A

5) Background materials:
   - Will you circulate the internal Note from ERT (see attached) to other participants in advance? Do you need anything else from us?

I hope this suits you? Thanks for all your work. And don't hesitate to let Carol and me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

[signature]

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From: [redacted]
Sent: 14 April 2023 15:25
To: elisabeth.werner@ec.europa.eu
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]
Subject: Meeting on 25 April with Heads of Associations & ERT appraisal of EU initiatives on competitiveness

Dear Elisabeth,
In view of your call with [redacted] on Monday at 14.30, please find attached a Note which is meant as input for the meeting on 25 April with the Heads of Associations.

It consists of an initial appraisal by ERT of the various competitiveness initiatives from the Commission in March.

The Heads of Associations would prefer to keep the discussion on 25 April focussed on the Single Market and Long-term competitiveness as well as their implementation. They would also be grateful to discuss continued follow-up on the Joint Statement on “Renewing economic integration in the single market”, including the publications from the Associations on barriers in the Annex (e.g. the 30 stories from ERT).

The Heads of Business Europe and EUROCHAMBRES could participate in person. DigitalEurope and Eurocommerce requested if a virtual connection could be enabled.

Thanks in advance and have a good weekend!

Kind regards,

[Signature]

European Round Table for Industry

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