Dear Mr Husak,

EuroCommerce and its members are strongly committed to supporting the Commission and other EU institutions in improving the application of the Services Directive. We are convinced that making the current notification obligation and Commission powers as described in Article 15(7) of the Services Directive more workable and effective, could make a major difference in achieving a better working of the Single Market in Services.

We understand that the Commission is facing a decision of principle in the trilogue negotiations, and we wish to underline our support for amending the Services Directive, but this must be done in such a way that it strengthens the actual enforcement of the Services Directive.

We regret the lack of progress in the trilogue negotiations and would request the Commission, if there is no positive outcome of the negotiations any time soon, to start actively applying article 15(7) as it stands. In addition, the Commission could perhaps consider issuing guidelines ensuring that the Member States fulfil their notification obligations under the Services Directive.

Alternatively, we would be prepared to support the European Parliament’s position of November last year, to at least create a new obligation for Member States to notify authorisation schemes as described in Article 9 of the Services Directive.

You will find attached our paper from May 2017, which supports the Commission initial proposal. This remains our clear position.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

[Signature]

EuroCommerce
Head, Single Market