

**From:** [REDACTED] (GROW)  
**To:** [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED] (CAB-SEFCOVIC)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED] (GROW); [REDACTED] (SANTE); [REDACTED] (GROW); GROW D1  
**Subject:** Business Europe - Free Movement of Services Working Group - Wednesday 9 June 2021 - Flash Report  
**Date:** mercredi 9 juin 2021 19:02:00  
**Attachments:** [Draft Agenda 2021 05 27.doc](#)  
[List of Participants - Free Movement of Services WG - 9 JUN.docx](#)

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Dear colleagues,

Please see below a flash report from today's meeting with Business Europe (Free Movement of Services Working Group).

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

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#### *Flash Report*

#### **Business Europe - Free Movement of Services Working Group - Wednesday 9 June 2021**

Participants: [REDACTED] (COM, GROW D1); Business Europe – please see participants' list attached.

Background: [REDACTED] was invited as a speaker for the second point on the agenda (see agenda attached): *Updated Industrial Strategy - Approach to services in the strategy*.

#### Summary

[REDACTED] presented the relevant points from the Updated Industrial Strategy. He explained the rationale for updating the industrial strategy and underlined the importance of Services for the EU economy. He explained the policy response, indicating the three strands of work: i) reducing the obstacles to movement of professionals in times of crisis: SMEI, updated Schengen strategy; ii) full implementation of the Services Directive and further development of the mutual recognition instruments under the Professional Qualifications Directive; and iii) addressing the structural barriers through the initiatives announced in the ISU, namely the common form in digital format for the PoW declaration on a voluntary basis and the standards for services. Then, he explained in detail the rationale behind those initiatives and outlined the steps to follow.

#### Q&A

##### *e-POW*

Most questions concerned the e-POW initiative, seeking further clarifications with regard to the status of the discussions internally and with Member States, timelines, voluntary vs obligatory approach, combining the initiative with the A1 form. [REDACTED] explained that the idea is not to harmonise all requirements, but to digitize what is currently more or less similar in the national practice into one multilingual declaration. He noted that for the moment it's not envisaged to integrate the A1 form into the digital form. He indicated the timelines announced in the ISU (Q1/2022) and noted that discussions with MSs would start when we have the results of the mapping and possible prototype of the e-form towards the end of the year.

##### *Services Standards*

Business Europe explained that they are quite concerned on how this would function and noted their interest to follow the initiative and to submit new ideas. They stated that they have not yet done their own assessment on which sectors could benefit from standardisation, but indicated (as preliminary, not yet discussed with members) engineering, logistics and digital services as potential candidates. They also pointed to the standards envisaged under the COM Digital Services Act proposal indicating the need to coordinate with DG Connect. [REDACTED] explained the status of the initiative and noted that COM will discuss its ideas with them during the process.

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