



Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie



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REPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE



Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCONOMIE ET DES FINANCES

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Berlin, February 2017

Ms
Cecilia Malmström
Commissioner
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

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Dear Commissioner Malmström,

Freedom of investment constitutes a core principle for the European Union and its member states. The EU is open to foreign investment and is proud of the attractiveness of its territory for foreign companies, ready to contribute to the development of innovation, production and employment in Europe.

In the last few years, non-EU investors have taken over more and more European companies with key technological competences for strategic reasons. At the same time, European investors do not enjoy the same rights in the respective countries of origin as these non-EU investors in the investment-friendly European Union.

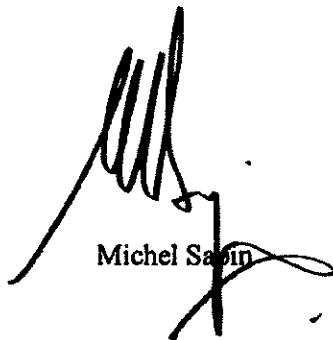
As a consequence, we are worried about the lack of reciprocity and about a possible sell-out of European expertise, which we are currently unable to combat with effective instruments. For this reason, the German, French and Italian governments have reflected on possibilities of reacting at EU level and have elaborated a common paper, which you will find attached to this letter.

The same concern prevails regarding public procurement where EU companies still face great difficulties to benefit from a fair access and equitable treatment abroad in a number of countries, whereas the EU market is open to competitors.

We would be grateful if we could hold a discussion at European level on this basis with the aim to reach agreement on how to tackle these two challenges that European companies are facing.

Yours sincerely,


Brigitte Zypries


Michel Sapin


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