

# Commitments

made at the hearing of

## ELŻBIETA BIEŃKOWSKA

**Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs**



Elżbieta Bieńkowska made a number of commitments in her answers to the European Parliament questionnaire and during the hearing held on 2 October 2014 before the ITRE, IMCO, ENVI and JURI Committees. The commitments relating to legislative files and those dealing with inter-institutional relations are presented in this document.<sup>1</sup>

## Internal market for services

### Efficient implementation of the legislation

*"My immediate priority is the efficient implementation of the Services Directive and the correct implementation of the modernised Professional Qualifications Directive. I intend to present, early in the mandate, a report on the remaining barriers to a fully-functioning internal market for services."*

### A renewed strategy to be proposed

*"I want to propose a renewed strategy for the internal market setting priorities for legislative and non-legislative actions based on thorough economic analysis."*

## Enforcement of product legislation

### Further legislative initiative to be considered

*"I will consider a further legislative initiative on the enforcement of product legislation, to encourage businesses to comply with the internal market legislation on products and to reduce the burden of routine inspections".*

## Product Safety/Market Surveillance

### Reaching an agreement on the package

*"I will do my utmost to help find a compromise".*

## Public procurement legislation

### Effective application and further actions

*"I will look at in priority in the first few months [...] the effective application of the new public procurement legislation." "We will identify where public procurement fails and we will address these failures". "I will analyse possibilities aiming at developing policies to fight corruption in public procurement and contribute to a culture of integrity across actors involved in public procurement". Ms Bieńkowska will take further action to enable smaller buyers to apply the new rules and to implement faithfully the new directive on concessions.*

## E-call system

### Implementation of the legislation is a priority

*Ms Bieńkowska wants to make implementation of the e-call system a priority and remains open to extend the system to other types of vehicles.*

## Car-registration

### Reaching an agreement on the Regulation

*Ms Bieńkowska will put all her efforts to reach an agreement in Council on the legislative proposal.*

## Standardisation

### An implementation report to be presented

*"I intend to present a Report on the implementation of the Standardisation Regulation [...] by end 2015".*

## Mutual recognition principle

### An evaluation for an improved functioning

*"I will consider improving the functioning of the mutual recognition principle. An evaluation is currently under way and I will keep the European Parliament informed [...]."*

## EU Semester

### For an Internal market pillar of the Semester

*"The Internal Market Integration Report [...] reflects this need to focus on the internal market - a focus I would want to keep and reinforce."*

## Better regulation

### REFIT programme

*"I will contribute to the delivery of an ambitious Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme".*

## Defence industry

### Implementing legislation and the roadmap for strengthening defence industry

*"I will work to achieve a well-functioning internal market for defence [...]. To this end, ensuring a full and correct application of the Defence Procurement Directive is key". "I will ensure the implementation of the Commission's part of the European Council conclusions on defence industries and markets and of the Roadmap put forward by the Commission."*

## Tourism

### A possible future programme

*Ms Bieńkowska will initiate consultation in order to possibly prepare a programme for tourism in Europe.*

## Sectorial policies

### Implementing and revising legislation

*"I will work on improving the implementation of REACH, especially as regards the authorisation procedure". "I think we should re-launch the CARS 2020 process, revise the type-approval framework and give strong push for the worldwide harmonisation of automotive legislation." "I propose to conduct a fitness check of the [construction] sector and an analysis of the implementation of the Construction Products Regulation."*

## Industry, SMEs and entrepreneurship

### Full roadmap to support industry

*"Early in the mandate [2015], I intend to prepare a set of measures to make the EU's industrial base fit for a globalised economy and for technological, demographical and ecological changes."*

### Energy efficiency and possible package on clean technologies

*Ms Bieńkowska intends to reflect on a package of measures promoting clean technologies and a market-based resource efficiency approach across different sectors of industry.*

### Supporting entrepreneurship and SMEs

*"My intention is to ensure thorough implementation of the Entrepreneurship 2020 Action Plan". "I will propose to facilitate the handling honest bankruptcy cases". "I look forward to the review of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs". "I will propose a revised Small Business Act for Europe". "I want to work on an integrated European strategy for SME internationalisation". Ms Bieńkowska will analyse the list of the top 10 most burdensome legislative acts for SMEs in the first weeks of the mandate and indicate the acts that should be abolished in priority."*

## Tools for innovation

*"I will make it my priority to create the right infrastructure for industrial IPR". "I will make use of policy tools ranging from IPR infrastructure [...] and enforcement, to supporting the uptake of innovation and technologies through financing and public procurement policy."*

### Package on alternative sources of financing

*Ms Bieńkowska will do her utmost to develop alternative sources of financing and will prepare a package on this.*

## Late Payment

### Enforcement of the Directive is a priority

*One of her first actions will be to make effective the reduction from 60 to 30 days for payment.*

## Medical devices

### Adoption of the medical devices Regulations

*"I will provide my full support for a rapid adoption of the revision of the medical device legislation."*

## Intellectual property

### Consolidation of the framework is a priority

*"I will look at in priority in the first few months [...] the consolidation of our intellectual property framework." Ms Bieńkowska believes we must quickly complete the implementation of the patent package, finalise the on-going reform of European Trade Mark Law and the negotiations on the Trade Secrets proposal.*

## Follow up to legislative INI reports

### EP contributions to be taken into account

*"I will [...] make sure that the Commission responds to parliamentary resolutions or requests made on the basis of Article 225 TFEU, within 3 months after their adoption. [...] I support and fully endorse the commitment made by President-elect Juncker that the future Commission will be particularly attentive to legislative initiative reports." "I consider that [...] Parliament has a key role to play in contributing to the preparation of Commission initiatives. I am looking forward to Parliament's positions either set out in non-legislative resolutions or to your input through the structure dialogue."*

## Impact assessments

### Proposals back to Commission in case of defected IA

*If Members of the European Parliament find that there may be flaws in the impact assessment or elements that have not been considered, Ms Bieńkowska is prepared to take proposals back into the Commission.*

## Equal treatment of co-legislators

*"I will make sure that Parliament is kept fully informed at the same time as the Council on all legal and political initiatives falling under my responsibility, so that the Parliament can exercise an effective democratic control, and will do everything in my power to ensure transparency and a proper flow of information."*

## Negotiations on international agreements

### Regular information on progress made

*"I stand ready to regularly inform you on progress made in international negotiations in my area of competence."*

## Relations with Parliament

### Dialogue will be a key

*"Meetings of the Parliamentary committees and the plenary sessions as well as any other relevant Parliamentary activity are unique occasions to build and strengthen the political dialogue between the two institutions. [...] I intend to make full use of this opportunity [...]" "I will be at your disposal also for bilateral contacts as well as any other Parliamentary activity where my presence is required." "I would like to cooperate with you in a spirit of confidence and regular dialogue, and I can only give you my very special commitment." "I commit myself to work very closely with you, with all groups in Parliament [...]" "I undertake to fully respect the Framework Agreement*

*on Relations between the European Parliament and the Commission."*

### Accountability to Parliament

*"I [...] undertake to report regularly and fully on my work to the Parliament so that it can exercise its democratic control effectively." "I am aware of the significance of this Parliament and its strong mandate, and I will be accountable to you."*

## Dealing with lobbyists

### Transparency and balanced representation

*"I will deal with lobbyists in full transparency and will request my services to do the same, including full use of the Transparency Register. My services and I will engage with all stakeholders [...], including in expert groups. I will make sure that the composition of these expert groups is balanced and adequately reflects the diversity of positions and interests at stake."*

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<sup>1</sup> Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 2 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.

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