



## Ten “S” – for a renewed commitment and a stronger single market

Since its creation, the EU single market has been a key driver for European competitiveness, has provided economic growth and helped improve the way we produce, consume and do business in Europe. The single market is, by far, Sweden’s most important market, accounting for two-thirds of exports and almost 80% of all imports. Furthermore, the single market is central to the green and digital transitions, securing the robust economy needed to face future challenges, safeguarding global leverage, and ensuring that the EU remains an attractive place to invest and do business in. A new political commitment for the EU Single Market is needed to remain competitive in an era of fierce global competition. It is therefore crucial that the single market be at the core of the new Strategic Agenda and a top priority for the next EU Commission.

### **1. Single Market Strategy**

A new horizontal Single Market Strategy is needed and should include specific timelines for deliverables and measurable goals to maximise impact, ensure efficiency and EU added value.

### **2. Simplified and better regulation and strengthened single market enforcement tools**

Regulatory simplification and better regulation are a priority and demanded by business. All new legislative acts should be preceded by thorough impact assessments and new EU policy initiatives should under-go a ‘competitiveness check’. Enforcement of the single market regulation is key

and further analysis, strengthening and coordination of existing instruments is needed, including strengthening of Solvit.

### **3. Services and skills**

The service sector has great untapped potential and services are a key factor in the servicification of industry and the twin transition. An ambitious action plan for the service sector, better compliance with the Service Directive, improving the notification procedure and strengthening the

Points of Single Contact are examples of measures that would improve the free movement of services. Moreover, the skills gap can be addressed by simplifying the mobility of professionals through mutual recognition, establishing concrete targets and better enforcement of the Professional Qualification Directive.

### **4. Safeguarding the free movement of goods**

Safeguard the Single Market Transparency Directive and continue working on mutual recognition and removing unjustified technical barriers.

### **5. Sustainable growth and industry policy**

The EU needs to be a frontrunner and can play a key role in facilitating the green transition. Considerable investments will be needed in the EU in the next decade. Clear incentives, framework conditions and the removal of unjustified barriers are the foundation for the green transition.

### **6. Simplified Digital Transformation**

Ensure proper implementation of the digital legislative proposals for the Digital Single Market. New EU legislation needs to promote interoperability between different regulatory models to ensure sufficient room for innovation and development. Foster research and innovation on the internal market in digital technologies, such as 6G.

### **7. Solid Competition and stricter State aid**

EU competition policy, rules and enforcement have been fundamental as contributors to the achievement of efficient, productive and competitive businesses on the single market. State aid rules have served the EU well for a long time and changes must be based on analyses, have broad support in the Union and serve the needs of both larger and smaller Member States.

Fragmentation of the single market risks reducing our competitiveness and productivity.

## **8. Standardisation**

Safeguard the development of standards that promote market-based and practical solutions and keep EU's leadership as a global standard setter. To ensure that future standards are based on merit rather than on politics, we must better monitor the geopolitical aspects of standardisation and safeguard the existing system of a merit-driven system.

## **9. Single market for capital**

The integration and development of the EU's capital markets through the Capital Markets Union (CMU) should be given priority. There are differences in development between Member States that affect the availability of capital for EU companies. A stronger capital market has the potential to level the playing field between EU companies in terms of access to financing to ensure that capital reaches those with the strongest growth potential.

## **10. Strengthen resilience through free, rules-based and sustainable trade**

Global trade in a rules-based system has made the EU the largest player in the global trade arena. Transparent and predictable regulatory frameworks are necessary to ensure good trading conditions for businesses. Modern free trade agreements promoting sustainability give the EU a platform to shape global standards. Resilience should be built on an open trade policy. The EU's trade agreements cover only about a 44% of our external trade. With 85% of the world's future growth projected to occur outside the EU, we need to do better than this.