

Mr Peter Žiga
Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic
Chairman of the Competitiveness Council of the European Union
Mierová 19, 82715 Bratislava, Slovakia

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Excellency,

Collaborative Economy Agenda for an Economically Strong Europe

We applaud the Slovak Presidency's commitment to ensure an economically strong Europe, with a modern, well-functioning Single Market, and strongly welcome your focus on building Europe's competitiveness on innovation and digital economy, to the benefit of all European citizens.

The European Collaborative Economy Forum (EUCoLab) brings together collaborative economy businesses and European policymakers to discuss the public policy landscape of the collaborative economy. The collaborative economy is one of the most dynamic drivers of Europe's growth, innovation and competitiveness. Today, more than 5 percent of Europeans already provide products and services through collaborative economy platforms. Last year, gross revenues from collaborative economy platforms and providers in Europe were estimated to be €28 billion - almost doubling from 2014 to 2015.

The European Union's leadership is needed in order for users and entrepreneurs across Europe to fully reap the many benefits of the collaborative economy in terms of jobs, growth, efficient services improving the daily lives of Europeans and the better use of resources. European citizens expect to have access to modern services across all European Member States. The regulatory fragmentation across EU Member States is preventing this.

The EU Commission recently published a Communication on the 'European Agenda for a Collaborative Economy'. Market access, liability, consumer protection, employment and taxation were identified as key regulatory areas in which Member States have not yet fully aligned with the existing EU legal framework. Many regulations are simply outdated, and over time have become unproportional and unfair. This hinders the development of the European Single Market and the Digital Single Market and prevents European citizens and businesses from fully benefiting from the collaborative economy.

EUCoLab has this week released the results of an [Industry Views Survey](#) conducted to understand the key barriers to growth faced by collaborative economy businesses. Every day, respondents support over 500,000 microentrepreneurs in Europe to provide services and goods to over 1,000,000 users. Over half of members ranked requirements to adhere to outdated laws conceived for traditional services as the top barrier to growth. This was closely followed by the issue market fragmentation and disparities in regulatory burdens between Member States. Additional industry concerns which featured prominently were the importance of directly challenging disproportionate and anti-competitive laws, removing restrictive authorisation schemes and the pressing need for the wider adoption of both TrustTech and insurance solutions to empower consumers.

A review of the regulations as laid out in the Communication will benefit small businesses and consumers in both digital and traditional economy. We therefore respectfully ask you to ensure that these issues are tackled across Europe in a timely manner; thereby fulfilling the central themes of the Presidency: achieving concrete outcomes which have a tangible impact on improving the quality of life of citizens, whilst overcoming fragmentation to help connect Member States more closely with the Single Market.

With this in mind, we support the Presidency's efforts to obtain a full statement of the Council's opinion that the Collaborative Economy Agenda is implemented by Member States for the benefits of all Europeans, regardless of in which Member State they reside.

Yours sincerely:

EUCoLab members: Andaman7, airbnb, deemly, Guardhog, Homestay, HooYu, Intuit, Lignum Capital, LocoSoco, meploy, nimber, peerby, Seats2meet.com, SnappCar, Spotahome, TicketSwap, ThePeopleWhoShare, Uber, VentureLab, Veridu, YourParkingSpace.

Attn:

Austria: Mr Reinhold Mitterlehner, Minister of Science, Research and Economy

Belgium: Mr Kris Peeters, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment, the Economy and Consumers, with responsibility for External Trade

Bulgaria: Ms Meglena Kuneva, Deputy Prime Minister for the Coordination of European Policy and Institutional Issues

Czech Republic: Mr Jan Mladek, Minister for Industry and Trade

Denmark: Mr Troels Lund Poulsen, Minister for Business and Growth

Germany: Mr Matthias Machnig, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy

Estonia: Mr Kristen Michael, Minister for Economic Affairs and Infrastructure

Ireland: Ms Mary Mitchell O'Connor, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Greece: Mr Georgios Stathakis, Minister for the Economy, Development and Tourism

Spain: Mr José Manuel Soria Lopez, Minister for Industry, Energy and Tourism

France: Mr Michel Sapin, Minister of Economy and Finance

Croatia: Mr Leo Prelec, Deputy Minister of Economy

Italy: Ms Teresa Bellanova, Deputy Minister for Economic Development

Cyprus: Mr Georgios Lakkotrypis, Minister for Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism

Latvia: Mr Arvils Aseradens, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economics

Lithuania: Mr Evaldas Gustas, Minister for the Economy

Luxembourg: Mr Etienne Schneider, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Affairs

Hungary: Mr Mihály Varga, Minister for National Economy

Malta: Mr Christian Cardona, Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business

Netherlands: Mr Henk Kamp, Minister for Economic Affairs

Poland: Mr Mateusz Morawiecki, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Development

Portugal: Mr Manuel Caldeira Cabral, Minister of Economy

Romania: Mr Costin Borc, Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, Commerce and Relations with the Business Environment

Slovenia: Mr Zdravko Pocivalsek, Minister for Economic Development and Technology

Sweden: Mr Mikael Damberg, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation

Finland: Mr Olli Rehn, Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom: Baroness Lucy Neville-Rolfe, Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

