

Brussels, 24 July 2026
(OR. en)

11854/26

COMPET 952
MI 775
IND 485

NOTE

From:	Trio Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Assessing the Integration of the Single Market in line with the One Europe, One Market Roadmap

Delegations will find in the Annex the Trio Presidency discussion paper on ‘Assessing the Integration of the Single Market in line with the One Europe, One Market Roadmap’, for the exchange of views at the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (High Level) on 07 September 2026.

**Discussion Paper for the High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth,
7th September 2026, Brussels**

**Assessing the Integration of the Single Market
in line with the *One Europe, One Market Roadmap***

One of the five pillars of the *One Europe, One Market Roadmap* is “A more integrated Single Market, including by removing the ten most harmful barriers”. The Roadmap, as a whole, is to be achieved “through decisive progress in 2026 and by the end of 2027 at the latest”.

The Roadmap lists a number of key legislative files, all of which have clear target dates and several of which – such as EU Inc. – relate directly to the Single Market Strategy from May 2025. This raises the question of how, quite apart from delivering these files, the barrier removal efforts essential to the Single Market pillar of the Roadmap can best be sequenced and delivered.

Given the heightened priority – as signalled in the Roadmap – of delivering on comprehensive barrier reduction and removal, it is timely to consider how the HLG and Council, complementing Member State and Commission actions, can lend extra momentum to barrier removal efforts within a focused timeframe.

Current Priorities

The Terrible Ten barriers are broken down into 28 sub-barriers, as outlined in the Commission’s Heatmaps for each Member State. Work is already underway, on foot of direction from the December 2025 COMPET Council, to tackle priority barriers (TT3 Complicated business establishment and operations; TT6 Fragmented rules on packaging, labelling and waste; and TT8 Restrictive and diverging national services regulation) through the Single Market Enforcement Taskforce (SMET) and its relevant expert groups. Further technical work is also underway in SMET, including on TT7 Outdated harmonised product rules and lack of product compliance.

Mobilising political will for barrier removal

Work over recent years within the SMET has underlined that, whatever about identifying priority barriers, tackling and removing barriers requires concerted action by all relevant players. For its part, the Commission has signalled a more assertive approach to enforcement. Its Communication on *A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook* envisages a stronger focus on Single Market compliance, with the European Semester playing its part in identifying key barriers and gold-plating issues in each Member State and pointing to instances that should be tackled as a matter of priority.

Enforcement alone will not be sufficient to meet the Roadmap objectives. Arguably, the Commission's re-focused efforts must be complemented by the leveraging of political will, including at Council level, to support the activities of SMET and its expert groups and ensure effective follow-through.

The potential avenues of approach for bringing political will more directly to bear on barrier removal efforts fall into a number of categories:

- **Enhanced national ownership**, including through clear coordination mechanisms within Member States to apply a “Single Market lens” to policy and administrative issues that are often seen as domestic concerns;
- **Leveraging and mandating SMET** as a decision-making and problem-resolution body, with an agenda of actions that matches the ambitions of the *One Market, One Europe Roadmap*.
- A clear role for the high-level **Single Market Sherpas**, both as focal points for joint ownership and as a Network to which the most intractable issues can be escalated for politically-mandated resolution;
- The **High-Level Group** on Competitiveness and Growth as a forum for sharing good practice and for assessing the effectiveness of Single Market implementation arrangements; and
- The essential **role of Council** in providing regular touchpoints for political oversight, progress accountability and priority setting – in line with the quarterly review mechanism built into the Roadmap.

Questions

Against this background, the Chair invites HLG members to offer their reflections on the following:

1. What is your assessment of the current trajectory of action in addressing the Terrible Ten barriers, relative to the One Europe, One Market Roadmap?
 2. What further steps might be needed to translate political will into coordinated, practical action in order to meet our deadlines under the Roadmap?
-