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General Secretariat

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Presidency flash note for the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Internal Market - Late payment) on 7 October 2025

PUBLIC

Presidency Flash

Late payment in commercial transactions

WORKING PARTY ON COMPETITIVENESS AND GROWTH (INTERNAL MARKET)

Meeting on 7 October 2025 (morning only)

Dear colleagues,

We are pleased to invite you to a meeting of the Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth (Internal Market) hosted by the Danish Presidency on the draft Regulation on combating late payment, planned on 7 October 2025 in the morning.

Presentation by the Commission

The meeting will start with a presentation by the Commission on the preliminary results of a survey on late payment. The survey was launched 8 July 2025 and is addressed to the main SME stakeholders. The aim of the survey is to collect information on (i) interested parties' views on policy measures to combat late payment, and (ii) the impact of late payment on interested parties. The survey closes on 25 September 2025. The Commission will also provide an update on how the proposal for a Regulation on combating late payments contributes to competitiveness through simplification in line with the Commission agenda on simplification and competitiveness.

Member States are invited to comment on the presentation of the Commission.

Questions to delegations

With the aim of finding the best way forward, the Danish Presidency kindly asks Member States to consider the following questions:

1. Would you be interested in continuing work on a Presidency compromise text based on the current Commission proposal or,
2. In the alternative, what other policy measures would you propose in order to combat late payment in commercial transactions?

Member States are invited to give their remarks orally at the meeting and in writing before the 6 October 2025 to the following email addresses:

- Danish Presidency: [redacted] and [redacted]
- General Secretariat: compet1.internalmarket@consilium.europa.eu

For the discussion, the Presidency intends to have a full round table of interventions with a maximum of 3 minutes per intervention.

Background

In September 2023, the Commission presented to the Council and the European Parliament a proposal for a Regulation on combating late payment in commercial transactions. At the COMPET Council on 7 March 2024 a policy debate on the proposal was held and some of the main points discussed were the choice of the legal instrument, the payment deadline and enforcement.

On 23 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted its position, which to a large extent resembles the original proposal set out by the Commission.

On 3 May 2024, the Belgian Presidency submitted a revised proposal in the form of a Directive, which was discussed by the Working Party on 16 May 2024. On 7 June 2024, 14 Member States co-signed a paper calling for the withdrawal of the proposal. During the Polish Presidency, potential issues for debate were identified and suggestions for amendments were proposed.

Please find here attached the members of our Presidency team. If you have any questions, you are most welcome to contact us.

We look very much forward to seeing you on 7 October 2025.

On behalf of the Danish Presidency Team,

[redacted].

Danish Facts:

The last Danish Presidency in 2012 was known as the 'tap water' presidency, since the bottled water served at meetings was swapped out for tap water. Before that, during the Danish Presidency in 2002, Denmark led negotiations and reached an agreement on the expansion of the EU with 10 new Member States.

Late Payment Team

[redacted]

Chair

[redacted]

Danish Presidency
Council of the European Union



[redacted]

Counsellor

[redacted]

[redacted]

Secretary

[redacted]

Danish Presidency

Council of the European Union