

European Commission DG Internal Market and Services B-1049 Bruxelles September 8th 2010

Response to Commission hearing on Retail Services in the Internal Market

First, the Danish government would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to contribute to the important work on strengthening the European retail market.

Below, you will find Danish comments to the report from the Commission, "Towards more efficient and fairer retail services in the internal market for 2020".

Due to the fact that the land planning systems have a high impact on the retail landscape the Member States are strongly motivated to ensure, that land planning systems supports an efficient retail sector.

The accessibility to retailers varies across Member States. This is not only a consequence of lacking co-ordination of land planning systems, but is also caused by the diversity of the Member States, including varying cultures. Due to the great diversity within the EU the Danish Government believes, that the land planning systems in the Member States are unsuitable to be met with harmonization requirements.

The Danish Government believes though, that an evaluation of the national schemes and exchange of best practices could likely contribute to optimizing the land planning systems across the Member States.

Furthermore The Danish Government generally supports initiatives to improve the conditions for cross-border e-commerce, including for example such initiatives, that the Commission addressed in "A Digital Agenda for Europe".

As for trying to concentrate retail market on lower energy consumption, efficient logistics, waste collection and recycling systems and sustainable development, Denmark is a strong advocate for ensuring such matters. The Danish Government generally supports initiatives, which aims to pursue and disseminate good environment practices in the retail services. However it is at the same time important to stress, that in regard to new administrative burdens put upon the companies, these must be balanced.

Regarding the more specific data applied in the factual and comprehensive analysis, the Danish Competition and Consumer Authority has already provided their views on these matters to the Commission.

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