

EN

E-001539/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Vestager
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2024)

1. The Commission is aware that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), in particular in border regions, see the lack of rationalisation of national posting procedures in the EU as a burden in the single market. The Commission launched a project to simplify administrative compliance with national posting declaration obligations. For further detail, the Commission refers to its answer to question E-000639/2024¹.

2. The Commission is working on a proposal on identity card-based digital travel documents, also known as digital travel credentials (DTCs). Once available, these DTCs will facilitate the exercise of the right to free movement while strengthening security standards. The European Digital Identity Wallets, to be provided by Member States by November 2026, are essential tools for securely storing and sharing attributes, such as, for example, those stored in DTCs. By harmonising electronic identification methods and reducing fragmentation, the overall framework aims i.a. to lower identity verification costs and enhance cross-border mobility and interoperability.

3. The EU supports access to debt and equity finance of European companies and SMEs through the InvestEU programme². Its loan guarantee programmes support various EU policy priorities including SME competitiveness. InvestEU also provides equity intervention in cross-border equity funds that further invest into innovative companies with potential to scale in the single market and beyond. As addressed in the Political Guidelines³, the Commission will propose a European Competitiveness Fund as part of the Multiannual Financial Framework post-2027. Such a fund is aimed to strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's industry and increase the investment capacity in strategic sectors.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2024-000639-ASW_EN.html

² https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/access-finance/investeu/investeu-fund-sme-window_en

³ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf