European Committee
of the Regions

The President

Brussels, 13.12.17 02045

PCAB (2017) D2866

Ms Margrethe Vestager
Commissioner for Competition
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Bruxelles

Dear Commissioner,

I would like to thank you for your participation in the Plenary Session of the European Committee of the Regions on 1st December. Your intervention has been very much appreciated.

As you have highlighted EU competition policy matters for our regions and National Competition Authorities play an important role in key competition areas. This is why our Committee recommends that National Competition Authorities in the Member States are provided with more funding.

Furthermore, I would like to reiterate that competition policy enforcement should have due consideration for national and regional Member State industrial policies for investment, particularly for those industrial policies which rely on national competences outside the scope of EU treaties. In the field of Services of General Economic Interest we call on the Commission to base its State Aid control on the principle of trustworthiness. As you have stated we need to have a clear understanding of when investment involves State Aid to provide certainty to local and regional authorities in their investment projects.

As regards our opinion "Towards a European Agenda for Housing" the European Committee of the Regions welcomes the recent Commission report to the Council on the Urban Agenda for the EU, which echoes our call of broadening access to social housing beyond "disadvantaged citizens or socially less advantaged groups". In this context I very much appreciate your proposal to meet with our rapporteur, Mr Hicham Imane, to further discuss this matter.

I am pleased to send you with this letter our Committees' opinions on the Annual Competition Report and on Social Housing adopted during our Plenary Session and look forward to continuing our good cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Karl-Heinz Lambertz

Annex: Opinion "The European Commission Report on Competition Policy 2016"
Opinion "Towards a European Agenda for Housing"

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË | Tel. +32 2282 2314 | president.cor@cor.europa.eu
www.cor.europa.eu | @EU_CoR | /european.committee.of.the.regions | /european-committee-of-the-regions