OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY AND EU ECONOMIC SECURITY

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An open and resilient EU economy and financial system

Over the past years, the Commission has been pursuing a policy of "open strategic autonomy" in financial services to benefit from financial integration while defending the interests of the Union and strengthening its role on the world stage. The objective is to avoid excessive reliance on non-EU service providers or jurisdictions and increase the EU's preparedness in a world of growing uncertainty, while remaining integrated in an increasingly multi-polar world.

The EU's vision of open strategic autonomy is to ensure that our global interdependencies are sufficiently diversified and based on long-term, trusted partnerships that uphold high regulatory standards and reinforce international cooperation through cross-border investments and exchanges. In finance, open strategic autonomy can reinforce Economic and Monetary Union, foster a stronger international role of the euro, and deliver more developed and resilient financial market infrastructures. The Commission issued a Communication on this topic in January 2021, to foster openness, strength, and resilience with the goal of strengthening the European economic and financial system.

The EU financial system is considered one of the most open in the world, building on the implementation of strong international standards and supervisory arrangements. Currently, in some areas, such as investment banking, the EU relies heavily on large foreign players for specific financial services. This reflects our globalised world, where competitive specialisation based on comparative advantages goes hand in hand with interdependence. While remaining open, the EU financial sector has also increased its resilience over the last decade.

The euro has consolidated its place as the second most used currency internationally. Moreover, the uniform enforcement of high regulatory and supervisory standards has strengthened the banking sector, which remained resilient against the turbulence in the US and Switzerland last spring.

That said, much work remains to be done to reinforce the resilience of the EU financial system. For example, the EU banking sector remains fragmented due in part to a sometimes suboptimal capital and liquidity allocation between parents and subsidiaries, low profitability levels, different legal systems etc. In addition, while two pillars of the Banking Union are already in place, the third pillar, a common deposit insurance scheme, is still missing.

A key challenge going forward will be to balance financial stability concerns at national level with the need for a more integrated and efficient internal market for banking, within a well-regulated prudential and resolution framework with single supervision and resolution in the Banking Union.

Several policy responses can be envisaged to foster market integration, such as a more efficient and fungible allocation of capital and liquidity within cross-border groups and the operationalisation of single-point-of-entry resolution strategies, while taking account of financial stability concerns. Promoting the establishment of a European deposit insurance scheme would also enhance the allocation of capital, make liquidity management more efficient, ensure the same protection to all depositors, foster mutualisation of risks within the Banking Union and alleviate concerns that banks are European in life but national in death.

Building a Capital Markets Union is another top priority going forward. EU citizens are amongst the world's best savers and during the pandemic saved almost €1 trillion, topping up already historically high savings. There is untapped potential to activate these largely passive savings so that they get a better return for consumers and better support the EU's capital markets and business financing needs.

An open and resilient economy and financial system bolsters the EU's role on the world stage.

The Commission recently adopted the Retail Investment Strategy which seeks to support this goal and aims to empower retail investors to make investment decisions that are better aligned with their needs and preferences, ensuring that they are treated fairly and duly protected. With this, the proposal seeks to enhance retail investors' trust and confidence to safely invest in their future and take full advantage of the EU's capital markets union.

MAGDALENA RZECZKOWSKA
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Open strategic autonomy of the European Union and the Capital Markets Union

The phrase "autonomy" has been at the very centre of the European debate in recent years. Autonomy often erroneously evokes negative connotations, associated with its former understanding, however in our view, it should no longer. Autonomy does not have to mean protectionism or separatism, but quite the opposite. Autonomy is about making own decisions, own alliances and working together with partners to defend common ideals.

Obviously, threats to EU's autonomy usually result from external challenges. An ongoing test to EU solidarity and resilience is Russia's aggression against Ukraine. And this is not the only challenge - growing economic protectionism in the world is becoming another. Today, we are confronted with a world in which we either preserve autonomy or risk becoming superfluous. Strategic autonomy should provide the Union with the means to independently engage in constructive dialogues with any of our partners. Also, the EU should provide a supportive environment for growth-enhancing investments, green and digital transitions and building defence capabilities of its Member States. However, we must never forget to strengthen the single market, which is absolutely the basis of our autonomy. And finally, the EU needs to become more self-sufficient by reducing existing dependencies on fossil fuels and critical raw materials.

But the concept of autonomy refers also to internal challenges. And those may be well illustrated by all the pressures resulting from the Covid-19 crisis. Pressures on healthcare systems, economy and the organization of the market, that depicted the vulnerabilities when it comes to global supply chains and the inextricable ties to major Union's economic partners. Therefore, the European Union's open strategic autonomy must be understood in this highly dynamic and complex context of global trade flows, resource dependency and ongoing environmental crisis, as well as the future challenges of green and digital transitions.

And what about "financial" autonomy and its relationship to "strategic" autonomy? First of all, there is general agreement, that the financial sector is a key area in which open strategic autonomy can be ensured. And it was Brexit that raised the question of the EU's financial autonomy, as it has highlighted the key dilemma in whether the Union's economy should remain merely an importer of financial services delivered by third countries or should it build some form of strategic autonomy in finance.

The diversity of EU Member States should not be perceived as an obstacle, but as an opportunity.

The question remains on how to achieve the EU's autonomy in the field of finance? While there are various answers to the question, we believe that accelerating the implementation of the Capital Markets Union is critical for creating a more resilient, inclusive and green economy. But in order to fully understand our position one should realize that CMU is not merely a sectorial policy – it underpins the health of the entire European economy. And we believe the main opportunity of the CMU is not centralization, but rather its diversity. Let's repeat it once again – the diversity of EU Member States should not be perceived as an obstacle, but as an opportunity. The motto of the Union, "United in diversity", should thus become the guiding principle for designing a multi-centred CMU that will work to the benefit of citizens and companies in all Member States.

And in order to accelerate the implementation of the CMU, there are several priority areas to be addressed. We think we must consider best practices from regions that have successfully developed their markets; rebuild local ecosystems through regulation that is better adapted to the size of companies and markets; develop private capital markets and alternative ways of financing; build an equity culture in Europe; and last but not least – review prudential regulation to prevent it from handicapping the sector's capacity to finance the economy.

With regard to possible regulatory initiatives, it should be noted that while the traditional investment services market appears to be sufficiently regulated, several emerging investment activities remain outside the system. Many far-reaching requirements for traditional investment companies can be contrasted with the almost complete lack of regulations regarding the phenomena emerging in the investment area resulting from the technological revolution - such as artificial intelligence, social media and influencers providing investment advisory, as well as the phenomenon of "copy trading". It seems that the regulatory environment is not keeping up with the rapidly changing technological reality.

In general, we believe that at the current stage of deepening of the CMU, efforts should be made not to create new regulations, but rather to review the existing ones and eliminate barriers, including those at the individual Member States' level. An example of such activities may be the Capital Market Development Strategy adopted in Poland with the support of the European Commission and currently being implemented.

ANIKÓ TÚRI

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The holistic view on open strategic autonomy and competitiveness

As we all know the financial services is based on prudential approach, the preparedness for the unexpected crises. In the last decade we could experience the results of vulnerabilities and the benefits of resilience. Open strategic autonomy is the realisation that EU should look at the specific risks of its open economy in European perspective, which has the broader context in the EU economic security.

The current geopolitical environment has put even more pressure on the EU to look the effectiveness and competitiveness of its regulatory system on a global scale. The double transition of digitalisation and sustainable finance also entails several issues linked to strategic autonomy, like critical service providers, central banks digital currency, the treatment of critical raw materials and sustainable energy supply. For example, in line with the communication of 2021 the legislative work on digital euro has started, the EU Green Bond standard has been approved, and the next step is the practical implementation through taxonomy and ESG ratings, which are underway.

An important goal of the open strategic autonomy is the greater self-respect of EU interest, an open economy which is capable of self-sustainment.

An autonomous economy welcomes investments working in the interest of EU's economic success.

There is a need of holistic approach to identify vulnerabilities of the EU and of its Member States. When we map these risks we should focus on long term competitiveness, and the ability of the financial sector to finance the sustainable growth of the real economy. While upholding our European values, like the open economy, we should increase our room for manoeuvre globally dealing with various partners by strengthening our competitiveness and resilience.

If we turn to the question on how to achieve financial autonomy and competitiveness the priority area should be effective crises management in banking, and moving forward on Capital Market Union, where accelerating digital and green transition can play a key role.

Open strategic autonomy is also about the use of our own resources, like domestic funding of economy by EU savings through equity financing. A good way forward to enhance the involvement of European savings in the domestic funding of economy in relation to bonds and equities is clearly the public and private partnership, for example in the field of green finance, but also in general to finance the real economy.

An autonomous economy welcomes investments working in the interest of EU's economic success.

The regulatory regime should enable efficient and proportionate approaches. Strong cross-border financial institutions emerge from efficient companies, mergers and acquisitions happen if there is a business case for them. The role of the prudential regulation is to ensure stability in all institutions, and not to distort the level playing field by preferential treatment. EU should deepen the single market, but also uphold a level playing field.

In the banking sector the EU has achieved a high level of resilience and integration. The foundation for further integration is trust among regulators, supervisors and consumers.

We should avoid fragmentation of the EU banking sector by making sure that consumers can be confident in the resilience of local subsidiaries of banking groups. The supervisors knowing best the local entity and its environment, with sensitivity to local and regional trends, can act quickly and efficiently. Banking groups are strong if they do not have a weakest link, and supervisors can cooperate effectively if they have trust among themselves, this way can transnational banking groups stay integrated. Concerning regulation we should aim to reach the common goals by taking into account local specificities.

In these objectives the focus should not only be on financial stability, but the safety of supply in case of financial services also an issue of consumer protection, which in our digitalised world includes financial education. Meanwhile it should be highlighted that the openness in our strategic autonomy is important for competition to strengthen competitiveness and for consumer experience.

The new institutional cycle starting from next year is a good opportunity to make the second step in strategic autonomy, including a possible new approach to Banking Union with a focus of efficiency and the new Capital Market Union action plan, which could be a flagship for the next institutional cycle starting in a year's time. Deepening the capital markets in all EU Member States would obviously help to strengthen the open strategic autonomy.

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Moving forward on strategic autonomy: how can the EU become more sovereign

Strategic autonomy has become a central topic in the last two years in policy thinking in response to the numerous geopolitical and economic crises Europe is facing. The French presidency of the Council took a major step forward in these debates with the adoption of ambitious conclusions in April 2022. Moving forward on strategic autonomy remains more than ever a necessity as Europe is still confronted with a challenging economic context resulting from the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis and the global economic competition after the launch of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in the United States.

As with any policy decision, achieving strategic autonomy will require to balance between opening the financial sector to new players, technologies and practices, in order to achieve the digital and sustainable transition our economy needs and foster innovation, while ensuring a financing of our economies that respects our values and policy goals.

To achieve this objective, we have to keep working collectively on all levers we have at our disposal in order to work on an economic and financial legislative framework that supports strategic autonomy. For that, we need to make our capital markets more attractive and integrated, our banking sector more competitive and resilient and our economy less dependent to external shocks.

First, we need to ensure a proper functioning of our Economic and Monetary Union. The digital euro appears to be one of the tools to foster strategic autonomy in the field of payments, while adapting the euro to the digital age. Proposals brought forward by the Commission on the digital euro and the legal tender of euro banknotes and coins are important steps forward to structure the debate on the project, with far-reaching implications on the payments landscape. Beyond the digital euro, the revision of the payment services directive should also be the way to comfort the emergence of innovative pan-European payment champions.

Second, we need to complete both the Capital Markets Union and Banking Union. On the Capital Markets Union, to address the current shortage of long-term capital, some efforts are required both at the European and national levels. At the national level, in order to boost the level of savings available for the financing of the green transition in France, we have recently adopted a "green industry law" which will lead to better channel savings towards the funding of the green transition. At the European level, we have entirely revamped the European alternative fund structure, in order to offer European savers a common vehicle to channel their savings towards the real economy.

> **It is time to accelerate to make strategic autonomy the key driver of the construction of a stronger European financial system.**

Regarding the other files being discussed as part of the CMU action plan, our key priorities should be to (i) revitalize securitization, (ii) enhance transparency in capital markets and (iii) simplifying our firms' access to capital markets, with specific attention to small and medium-sized enterprises.

On the Banking Union, I support the recent agreement on the Banking Package to transpose the Basel agreement as it will increase further its resilience while ensuring its capacity to provide sufficient financing to the European economy. The agreement also places the EU in a leading position to implement its international commitments on time. This is complemented by the recent Commission's proposal on the crisis management framework for which protection of deposits and a proper financing of the resolution scheme will be essential. Progress is also on the way on the insurance side with the recent adoption of the Parliament's position after the agreement in Council in June 2022 under the French Presidency.

Third, we need to preserve and build on our EU specificities in a more globalized and competitive world. The European Union has put forward a powerful response to the IRA with the Green Industrial Plan in order to make Europe a more attractive place for green industrial projects. Europe should keep playing a leading role in the development of sustainable finance in order to mobilize the private capital required for the green transition.

The current development of European sustainability reporting standards to streamline the sustainability information provided by companies is, after the Taxonomy, a good example of how the EU can position itself as a front-runner in standard making. Europe is also taking the lead on providing the means and conditions for an orderly digitalization of the financial sector with the recently published initiatives on the review of the PSD2 and open finance together with the ongoing discussions on the Artificial Intelligence Act and following the agreement on the Data Act.

Strategic autonomy should therefore remain a guiding principle in the different reforms we undergo to shape the financial system according to our needs and challenges. Europe has taken significant steps forward in front of the crisis it has been confronted with. Now, despite the challenging context and the upcoming reshuffle of the European institutions, it is time to accelerate to make strategic autonomy the key driver of the construction of a stronger European financial system.

PEDRO CASTRO E ALMEIDA

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A competitive Europe requires competitive banks

The war in Ukraine, the COVID pandemic, and the increasingly fragmented global economy have sharpened the focus of EU policymakers on the need for strategic autonomy and economic security. That will translate into new ways to set priorities and make choices for the next several years.

The key to success in this new paradigm will be growth, driven by competitiveness. Only growth and competitiveness can provide the security, social equity and sustainable transition we seek.

That need for growth has become urgent. In the last decade, Europe's global competitive position has deteriorated. As Jeremy Shapiro and Jana Puglierin of the European Council on Foreign Relations have pointed out, the EU economy was larger than the U.S.'s in 2008, $16.2 trillion versus $14.7 trillion. By last year, the US economy had grown to $25 trillion, while the EU plus the UK were at $19.8 trillion. The U.S. economy is now a third larger than the EU plus UK and 50% larger than just the EU. If this trend continues, the EU's leadership as a setter of global rules for trade, standards and sustainability – its projection of soft power - will not be tenable.

Banks, which provide 70% of financing to Europe's businesses, large and small, have a key role to play in recovering competitiveness and growth. After building capital buffers during the 15 years since the Great Financial Crisis, Europe's banks are resilient, as their support during the pandemic and the war in Ukraine show. But the current regulatory framework remains tilted toward financial stability, affecting banks' competitiveness and capacity to finance sustainable growth.

Despite is resilience. EU banks are just starting to earn their cost of capital, while US competitors have returned some time ago to pre-crisis profitability. The lower returns have been driven by comparably poor eurozone growth, fragmented markets, lack of scale and the long period of negative interest rates.

Meanwhile, banks still face obstacles to consolidation across the eurozone. Banking Union is incomplete, while political and regulatory restrictions prevent the emergence of universal banks across borders. Divergent national regimes on insolvency, consumer protection, product disclosure, data housing and other areas fragment what is supposed to be a single market.

Furthermore, the EU's capital market union is underdeveloped, limiting financing choices for large companies and SMEs. A weak securitization market and market fragmentation hampers investment within the EU and also dampens funding from outside. SMEs and retail investors lack access to capital markets. Yet more financing, including equity, is needed to build strategic autonomy and sustainable, economic security.

Europe's competitiveness and growth needs competitive banks.

Banks are ready to do their part in meeting these challenges. Estimates vary, but only a slight recalibration of capital requirements towards growth could unlock trillions in lending across Europe.

Finishing unfinished policy projects can play their part as well. As we look to the new five-year Commission and parliamentary period, growth and competitiveness should guide choices as Europe seeks autonomy and security. In banking, this would mean:

Completing the Banking Union: The lack of a banking union one of Europe's biggest missed opportunities – the European Parliament has estimated the completed economic and monetary union could add €321 billion a year to the economy by 2032. Without a European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS), the missing third pillar of the banking union, we face impediments to intra-EU transfers and do not have a level playing field to offer retail banking across borders.

Developing the Capital Markets Union (CMU). Together with the banking union, this is essential to finance the green and digital transitions, enhance the global role of the euro and reduce excessive dependence on banks from other jurisdictions. The priority should be on strengthening the securitization market as the best way to connect capital markets to the real economy. Europe's securitization market (including the UK) is about 6% the size of the US', representing about 1% of GDP compared to 18% in the US, according to a recent study by Oliver Wyman.

Policy-makers should also support EU businesses operating in third countries, a crucial element of strategic autonomy and economic security. The next Commission should ensure that the EU rules do not penalize European businesses operating abroad.

Santander's purpose is to help people and businesses prosper. We are a driver of the green transition and the digital transformation of our society. We have 164 million customers and work with more than four million SMEs.

For Santander, Europe is not only our home, but our future. We stand ready to work with all stakeholders to build a better Europe for all.

VITTORIO GRILLI

EMEA Chairman - JP Morgan

Open strategic autonomy and the completion of CMU: what's next

The COVID experience and recent geopolitical issues have shown Europe's vulnerabilities in some of its external dependences. Open strategic autonomy should be seen as increasing the EU's resilience in these strategic sectors, where trade flows should no longer be the main determinant for openness. However, applying the EU's strategic autonomy objectives in the financial sector should be handled with care.

By their nature, banking and financial markets increase their resilience and quality through the strength and breadth of their network. The more national they are, the less resilient they are. The transatlantic nature of financial markets is a sign of strength.

The involvement US banks in EU capital markets supports the EU's aspiration of capital market financing for the EU economy. US banks have beefed-up operations in the EU, including by moving or creating new highly paid roles inside the EU.

Part of a concern about "reliance" on US banks relates to the incorrect perception that non-EU banks retreat to their home markets in times of crisis. However, the opposite has happened. If we take the example of the COVID crisis, (I've quoted these figures before), JPMorgan increased lending by >20% during COVID in 2020.

Rather than retreating, the participation of global firms in the EU system adds competition and market depth, to the benefit of EU clients. The EU should remain open to international financial markets, which fortifies its resilience.

Policymakers should keep this in mind when looking at the next EU mandate. The objectives of the Capital Markets Union (CMU) should be taken forward with even greater ambition. Recent events have shown how more diversified sources of financing in the EU and relatively less dependence on bank funding increase resilience.

Good progress has been made since the 2015 CMU Green Paper, including on covered bonds, private pensions, long-term investment vehicles and listing rules. Going forward, fundamental securitisation reform should be a key part of these efforts to reduce pressure on banks and open up lending to help support the economy.

Re-launching and scaling up securitisation is an essential component of the CMU, and can bring considerable benefits to the European financial system by reducing over-reliance on bank funding while encouraging cross border investments. When developed in such a way as to be responsible, prudentially sound and transparent, securitisation seemed to us to be an important vehicle to increase the capacity of banks to lend and also for investors to have access to European credit products.

Re-launching and scaling up securitisation is an essential component of the CMU.

For example, there should be a clearer role for Competent Authorities in Significant Risk Transfer assessments. For the sake of a global level playing field, the EU prudential rulebook and the Basel framework should to be amended when it comes to recalibrating capital charges for senior securitisation tranches (both for banking and insurance) and when reassessing criteria under the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR). In considering these changes, it goes to the ability of banks to support clients with securitisation exposure and market making, rather than primarily as investors.

The potential funding that a truly functioning securitisation market could unlock is considerable. Some international comparisons give an idea about the potential. For example, securitisation has represented 12.5% of GDP in the US (excluding GSEs) and 12% in the UK vs. 3% in the EU-27. This suggests the enormous potential securitisation has in the EU to advance capital markets union and green finance, but it does not mean that the same levels should be replicated in the EU.

For the next Commission, it would also be important to facilitate disclosure and due diligence requirements, both in the context of public and private and third country securitisation to ensure a more proportionate approach to disclosure requirements. We also ask for the facilitation of the securitisation of legacy portfolios and allow the development of an active market for buying and selling pool of assets in Europe, notably by explicitly allowing the practice of re-underwriting the loans in cases where an entity acquires legacy and NPE pools.

At the same time, we need to ensure that the EU is stronger when it comes to the flow of capital across its members. This brings me to the Banking Union (BU). We have seen good progress achieved, especially the creation of the single supervisory and resolution mechanisms. The recent proposal to strengthen rules for bank crisis management and deposit insurance (CMDI) is a very welcome one. Although it is a highly political issue, EU policymakers should continue to work to find a common position before the end of this Commission´s mandate.

CMU and BU are the fundamental drivers of financial resilience in the EU. The next Commission will be a great opportunity to continue the work, balancing the open sttrategic autonomy while increasing EU's financial resilience and allowing for cross-border market financing.

STÉPHANE BOUJNAH

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Aligning supervision, levelling the playing-field and facilitating consolidation

The European Union is a major power centre. With approximately 450m inhabitants, the EU is the third bloc on the planet, behind India and China. With more than $16,000 billion economic output, the EU trails only the United States and China. With $1,450 billion net inflows between 2019 and 2022, the EU is the largest destination for Foreign Direct Investments.

In recent years, the EU has achieved impressive results to deliver prosperity, health and security. In 2020, the European Parliament and Member States agreed to launch the €750 billion Next Generation EU recovery and investment package, which is financed by the issuance of bonds by the European Commission. This unprecedented move demonstrates the EU commitment to European cohesion. In 2021, in the context of an EU-coordinated effort, no other region in the world has vaccinated so many people, so quickly, for such a small cost. By December 2021, 2 billion doses had been ordered by the EU-coordinated program. More recently, the EU has been massively supporting Ukraine to resist the Russian aggression. EU Member States have channelled close to €61 billion to Ukraine.

These achievements have been attained each time the EU recognized that, even if Europeans have friends and allies, Europeans must ultimately control their future with their own resources. European strategic autonomy is necessary to maintain our European way of life and protect our European values. Making the European strategic autonomy real is the only way to mitigate the possible impact of trade decisions made by China today and uncertain decisions regarding Taiwan tomorrow, or the consequences in Europe of the Inflation Reduction Act today and the unpredictable decisions of voters in certain States of the US tomorrow.

To progress towards strategic autonomy, the EU must nurture critical industrial capabilities. Connecting European investors and global markets with European companies efficiently is a core component of any European strategic ambition. The EU must rely on strong EU-based finance makers to power European markets and to finance European economies. Otherwise, Europeans will be renouncing financial autonomy and Europe will become a continent of finance-takers.

Strong and competitive EU financial companies are therefore a condition to European strategic autonomy. Euronext continues to champion a competitiveness test in order to assess systematically unwanted consequences of any new piece of EU regulation. This competitiveness test should assess whether any policy adjustments hurt the level-playing field between EU-based players and global firms that operate on our continent through their "Europe, Middle-East and Africa" divisions.

The EU must rely on strong EU-based finance makers to power markets and finance European economies.

Empowering EU-based financial players requires moving from similar but different rules towards a single set of rules. Since its IPO in 2014, Euronext has been building the backbone of the Capital Markets Union. Regulated markets in Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Milan, Oslo and Paris are now operated by a common pan-European organisation and offer a single European liquidity pool, enabled by a single order book, empowered by a single technology platform. Euronext also operates a post-trade platform in Copenhagen, as well as commercial and technology platforms in Bergen, Berlin, Espoo, London, Madrid, Munich, Porto, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Tallinn and Vilnius. Still, Euronext faces divergent applications of EU rules across its markets. This complexity, however, does not affect branches of competing global financial firms, which operate from a single country.

The Listing Act is a step in the right direction with a further standardization approach to the prospectus for primary issuances. We welcome the proposals to improve supervisory convergence by setting out a harmonized framework for national authorities to follow in relation to additional information requests.

But this is not enough. The EU must streamline and harmonize rules, phase out national exemptions and prevent domestic 'goldplating' of EU law to deliver one Single European Rulebook. This simplification requires an empowered ESMA, which must be able to ensure close cooperation and alignment between national supervisors in order to directly and decisively act when national supervisors diverge. Single Supervision in Europe must be the ultimate goal of legislative changes after the 2024 European elections cycle.

Europe is as strong as its Single Market is, because the rest of the world respects the EU because of the strength of its Single Market. In finance, a true Single Market requires an ecosystem of strong EU-based players to ensure our strategic autonomy.

Empowering European finance-makers, aligning divergent supervision to eliminate undue complexity, levelling the playing field with foreign third-parties and facilitating European consolidation must be the core objectives of the next Commission's agenda. Only with this condition met will a Capital Markets Union emerge to contribute to the strategic autonomy of Europe.