DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on International Trade

on the Recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) (2015/2233(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

Addresses the following recommendations to the Commission in the context of the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA):

a) **regarding political priorities**

i. to ensure the highest level of transparency in the negotiations, in particular by allowing access to documents and by organising a consultation with Parliament and civil society;

ii. to ensure that before considering the removal of barriers, the agreement seeks to create a level playing field in the services sector, and has as its main objective to highlight and maintain the high level of protection of consumers, workers and the environment enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU);

iii. to ensure that the TiSA provides reciprocal access, notwithstanding the right of countries to adopt regulations which are duly justified on public policy grounds;

b) **regarding the protection of public services and services of general interest**

i. to ensure that the negotiations maintain and strengthen the fundamental role played by public services and services of general interest in the European Union, which provide an essential safety net for citizens and contribute to social cohesion, growth and employment;

ii. to maintain the Member States’ freedom to regulate those services at all levels and to provide, commission and fund public services in compliance with the Treaties;

c) **regarding the services included**

i. to ensure that a positive list of services ready to be placed on the market is presented by the Union in order to protect those services not explicitly referred to from being opened up to competition;

ii. to ensure that the negotiations comply with the new directives on public procurement and concessions, in particular as regards the definition of public-public cooperation, exclusions and SME access;

iii. to ensure reciprocity in the mutual recognition of professional qualifications, in particular by establishing a legal framework, and that mobility is promoted by making it easier for professionals in the sectors covered by the agreement to obtain visas;

iv. to ensure that transparent and effective measures are put in place to protect consumers against fraudulent online commercial practices;

d) **regarding exclusions**
i. to ensure that the regulated professions are excluded from the agreement;

ii. to maintain the exclusion of audiovisual and cultural services;