OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on International Trade

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

Rapporteur: David Borrelli
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

Addresses, in the context of the ongoing negotiations on the TiSA, the following recommendations to the Commission:

Regarding the general approach:

1. to ensure: the highest standard of transparency and accountability, access to negotiation documents, and consultation with civil society, business and social partners; that exactly the same rules apply to non-EU and EU service providers; reciprocity between parties, at all levels, reflecting their equal ambition; timely and thorough impact assessments; the utmost efforts to make TiSA truly multilateral by negotiating an accession clause to the agreement and welcoming those who share a similar level of ambition as the parties;

2. to guarantee: Member States’ unhindered capacity to regulate, provide and fund existing and future public services and services of general economic interest at all levels; special attention to telecom and energy services, which are essential for citizens and companies and contribute to cohesion, a climate favourable to e-commerce and entrepreneurship and high-quality employment; compliance with EU data protection and privacy law;

Regarding the telecoms market:

3. to ensure: that TiSA brings clear advantages to EU consumers and businesses, especially SMEs and entrepreneurs; that non-EU companies from oligopolistic markets do not take advantage of the fragmentation of the EU market; a level playing field for all operators;

4. to guarantee: that EU operators in TiSA signatory countries have fair and symmetrical market access, free from any non-tariff and behind-the-border barriers, including regulatory and licensing requirements, standards asymmetry, technological impositions or restrictions, and rules for infrastructure sharing (particularly for the last mile) that favour incumbents; that TiSA signatories respect the principle of open and non-discriminatory internet access for service providers;

5. to avoid any new commitments that could undermine EU regulation; to maintain the competences of EU regulators; to uphold the principle of open governance of the internet; to guarantee that all TiSA signatories have an independent telecoms regulator.
RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

| Date adopted | 1.12.2015 |

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