



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

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**2010/2277(INI)**

14.12.2010

# **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on A Single Market for Enterprises and Growth  
(2010/2277(INI))

Rapporteur: Raffaele Baldassarre

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Believes that the Single Market can and should be re-launched so as to offer more growth and more and better jobs for European businesses, workers and consumers;
2. Considers that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the basis of the European economy and the main drivers of job creation, employment, economic growth and social cohesion in Europe; emphasises that greater efforts must be made to improve SMEs' access to and participation in the Single Market, including the removal of all barriers to the development of e-commerce as identified in the 2010 'Digital Agenda';
3. Points out that one of the main problems for SMEs in times of economic downturn is their access to finance; strongly supports the proposal for an action plan to improve SMEs' access to capital markets;
4. Underlines that the 'think small first' principle has not yet been implemented so as to remove the burdens hampering SMEs; calls for a speedy assessment of the Small Business Act in order to bring it into line with Europe 2020;
5. Strongly supports the efforts to pursue international trade negotiations; reiterates in this respect the importance of including social standards in all trade agreements concluded between the EU and third countries;
6. Welcomes the review of the Accounting Directives seeking to further simplify financial reporting obligations and to reduce administrative burdens, especially for SMEs;
7. Reiterates the need to create a more SME-friendly regulatory environment by carefully assessing the impact of any new regulatory or legislative measures on SMEs;
8. Stresses the importance of putting public procurement to better use in support of employment, social progress and innovation; urges the Commission to undertake initiatives to open up and facilitate access to public procurement for SMEs.