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Committee on Regional Development

2012/2260(INI)

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

The Governance of the single market
(2012/2260(INI))

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák

(Initiative – Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure)

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development 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 better governance of the Single Market provides enormous opportunities for trade, investment and utilization of labour and could significantly improve the prospects for local and regional growth;
2. Points out that local and regional actors perform many duties that are affected by EU legislation on the Single Market especially in the field of public procurement, state aid, services of general economic interest and concessions;
3. Underlines that the principle of local and regional self-government, explicitly recognised in the Lisbon Treaty as well as the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, have to be the cornerstones of any future policy development in the Single Market;
4. Recommends that local and regional authorities and their umbrella associations in all Member States are invited to make suggestions on how to best achieve the full realisation of the Single Market and that all public institutions should be encouraged to set up a public consultation and discussion process to this aim;
5. Recommends that the Commission, in addition to consultation procedures and a fostered dialogue with local and regional authorities that have to enforce EU legislation, conduct in-depth territorial impact assessments setting out convincing arguments for the need for Single Market regulation before adopting any legislative proposals;
6. Points out that high quality and accessible services of general interest are crucial for local communities and that the provision of local and regional public services is important for economic, social and territorial cohesion and therefore potential and interests of local and regional authorities should be better taken into account in the further development of the Single Market;
7. Stresses the need for the governance of the Single Market to be structurally linked with the cohesion policy and key Union priorities, in particular those of the EU 2020 strategy; proposes that territorial pacts be established where local and regional authorities would focus their activities and funding on strengthening the Single Market in line with the EU 2020 Strategy and the flagship initiatives;
8. Believes that cohesion policy can ensure faster convergence through integration and greater connectivity in the Single Market; to achieve this, the policy should continue to focus on addressing market failures and ensure that regions make full use of their development potential in the context of European economic integration;
9. Considers any conditionality clause in Structural Funds to reward the Member States most disciplined in transposing Single Market directives undesirable and believes that using the leverage of EU financial support to provide incentives for the timely

transposition of Single Market rules would be inequitable.