



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

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**2010/2245(INI)**

3.3.2011

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 49**

**Draft opinion**  
**Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**  
(PE456.879v02-00)

Innovation Union: transforming Europe for a post-crisis world  
(2010/2245(INI))

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PE458.836v02-00

**EN**

*United in diversity*

**EN**

AM\_Com\_NonLegOpinion

**Amendment 1**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Underlines that ***the rapid development*** towards ***the innovation union*** and ***the launch of a European Social Innovation pilot would have a high impact on productivity and would enable sustainable economic growth as well as job creation;***

*Amendment*

1. Underlines that ***progress*** towards ***an innovation Union, underpinned by coordinated Commission initiatives*** and a ***strong commitment from the Member States, will generate new opportunities for businesses, particularly innovative SMEs, will furthermore strongly support job creation, and bring about new and sustainable economic growth;***

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Underlines that ***the rapid development towards the innovation union and the launch of a European Social Innovation pilot would have a high impact on productivity and would enable sustainable economic growth as well as*** job creation;

*Amendment*

1. Underlines that ***the European internal market contributes positively to the implementation of innovations and hence to growth and job creation by encouraging competition and increasing the potential custom for innovative products and services; welcomes the Commission's broad strategic approach, which combines both demand- and supply-based instruments with horizontal and sectoral instruments;***

Or. de

**Amendment 3**  
**Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Stresses the need for the Commission to put citizens concerns at the forefront of Innovation Union and engage an open dialogue with relevant stakeholders advocating citizens' rights.***

Or. en

**Amendment 4**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Recalls that the 3% of GDP R&D target is composed of a 2 % (private) and 1 % (public expenditure) share; notes that there are still particular shortcomings in the field of private research spending which can only be overcome by adapting the regulatory environment for companies, including SMEs; supports in particular the Commission's work to develop a new headline indicator based on real innovation performance as this would be more informative than measuring performance against numerical targets;***

Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1b. Welcomes the Commission's intention to improve framework conditions for business to innovate, in particular with respect to intellectual property rights and the development of the EU patent;***

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 c (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1c. Stresses that standardisation also has an important role to play in promoting innovation and helping SMEs access new markets; welcomes the forthcoming Commission proposal in this regard and in particular the extension of standardisation to services;***

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Louis Grech**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Is convinced that in a post-crisis Europe, any Single Market strategy has to be formulated in such a way so as to***

*enhance social cohesion, ensure market integrity and foster innovation; endorses the Commission's initiative for a European Social Innovation Pilot which ensures that innovative ideas for the creation of products, services and businesses models are linked to and more importantly meet the social needs of EU citizens and consumers;*

Or. en

**Amendment 8**  
**Louis Grech**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*1b. Believes that innovation and creativity are key to the economic recovery of the Union and that the importance of converting the Union's scientific and technological breakthroughs into new goods and services cannot be underestimated; Expects the Commission to allocate sufficient funds towards R&D in successive Union Budgets so as to guarantee sustainable economic growth, creation of jobs, maximisation of social benefits and the competitive edge which Europe requires to outpace other major world economies;*

Or. en

**Amendment 9**  
**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Constance Le Grip, Philippe Juvin**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***1a. Supports the Commission's willingness to breathe life into neglected intellectual property; believes that one way to achieve this could be the creation of a European Funds for Patents, which would create patents pools through a system of licences to the benefice of European enterprises, especially innovative SMEs;***

Or. en

**Amendment 10**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

2. Stresses the need for SMEs ***and micro-enterprises*** to have access to affordable finance by ***increasing the scope for participation in different innovative projects***; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes by ***rewarding enterprises that promote innovative projects***;

2. Stresses the need for ***rapidly growing and innovative*** SMEs to have access to affordable finance by ***ensuring the availability of credit guarantee and loan guarantee schemes***; ***sees a need to leverage existing programmes at national and EU level and endorses the important role played by EIB SME loans***; ***stresses the need to improve the European venture capital market by creating more investment incentives for private investors, eliminating obstacles to cross-border operation of venture capital funds and facilitating the listing of innovative businesses on stock exchanges***; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes by ***simplifying the complex administrative procedures and making more funding available, particularly for the CIP Programme***;

Or. de

**Amendment 11**  
**Andreas Mölzer**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Stresses the need for SMEs and micro-enterprises to have access to affordable finance by increasing the scope for participation in different innovative projects; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes **by rewarding** enterprises **that promote** innovative projects;

*Amendment*

2. Stresses the need for SMEs and micro-enterprises to have access to affordable finance by increasing the scope for participation in different innovative projects; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes, **particularly as regards the selection of suitable** enterprises, **and to facilitate access for SMEs and micro-enterprises which adopt** innovative approaches;

Or. de

**Amendment 12**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Stresses the need for SMEs and micro-enterprises to have access to affordable finance by increasing the scope for participation in different innovative projects; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes by rewarding enterprises that promote innovative projects;

*Amendment*

2. Stresses the need **to enhance, stimulate and secure the financing of research, development and innovation in the EU; stresses in particular the need** for SMEs and micro-enterprises to have access to affordable finance by increasing the scope for participation in different innovative projects; urges the Commission to take appropriate steps to improve the functioning of the EU's funding programmes by rewarding enterprises that promote innovative projects; **regrets in particular the lack of funding for crucial**

*instruments for research, innovation and development that have already been adopted such as the Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan);*

Or. en

**Amendment 13**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*2a. Regrets that academic professionals still encounter obstacles to the free movement of workers such as problems with pension portability; stresses the need for developing a system which actively encourages the mobility of researchers and scientists between European universities and academic centres; underlines that this would stimulate sharing knowledge and would be highly beneficial to innovation and to the emergence of a European knowledge-based economy;*

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Antonyia Parvanova**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*2a. Calls on the pilot European Innovation Partnership in the field of active and healthy ageing to integrate all relevant policy areas at EU level, notably consumer protection and information*

*policies, thus contributing comprehensively to the partnership's overall objective of enabling citizens, by 2020, to live longer actively, independently and in good health;*

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people;*

*Amendment*

*3. Acknowledges that harmonised rules on products in the internal market, for example in the field of eco-innovation, are an important precondition for the introduction of innovative products; calls on the Commission, in its impact assessments, to assess carefully the impact of further harmonisation geared to eco-innovation on competitiveness, jobs and the environment and to take account of the needs of SMEs;*

Or. de

**Amendment 16**  
**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Constance Le Grip**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

*3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people;*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

Or. en

**Amendment 17**  
**Heide Rühle**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people;

*Amendment*

3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people; ***emphasises that green technology innovation provides an opportunity to speed up the shift towards a more sustainable economy and fosters job creation, and that high level social, environmental and consumer protection standards will encourage enterprises in this direction;***

Or. en

**Amendment 18**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and ***rural*** regions whereby ***they*** would ***employ young people;***

*Amendment*

3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban ***as well as rural*** and ***remote*** regions, whereby ***enterprise*** would ***be positively engaged by the public sector in developing innovative solutions to the delivery of public services;***

Or. en

**Amendment 19**  
**Louis Grech**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people;

*Amendment*

**3. Urges the Commission, in drawing up the final version of the Single Market Act, to consider integrating a strategy for the creation of a sustainable Single Market based on Article 11 TFEU through the development of an inclusive, low-carbon, green, knowledge-based economy, including measures to step up R&D and innovation in cleaner technologies;**  
strongly advocates an eco-innovation action plan centred on SMEs and micro-enterprises in urban and rural regions whereby they would employ young people;

Or. en

**Amendment 20**  
**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Constance Le Grip**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects; ***underlines the necessity of strengthening SMEs capabilities when it comes to project designing and proposal writing, including technical assistance and suitable education programmes;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the importance of ***speeding up the simplification of*** the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the ***scope*** for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the importance of ***simplifying*** the EU's research and innovation programmes ***and making grant application procedures less bureaucratic*** in order to increase the ***incentives*** for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects;

Or. de

**Amendment 22**  
**Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for enterprises to participate in EU-funded projects; ***notes that the simplified procedures will ensure effective and efficient use of public funding and avoid expending resources on complex rules, administrative burdens and disproportionate controls;***

Or. en

**Amendment 23**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for enterprises **to participate** in EU-funded projects;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the **administrative procedures for applying to the** EU's research and innovation programmes in order to increase the scope for **the participation of** enterprises in EU-funded projects;

Or. en

**Amendment 24**  
**Toine Manders**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes **in order to increase the scope for** enterprises to **participate in** EU-funded projects;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the importance of speeding up the simplification of the EU's research and innovation programmes **where this is necessary, and of increasing the access of** enterprises to EU-funded projects, **which should be regarded as loans to be repaid in the event of success**;

Or. nl

**Amendment 25**  
**Mitro Repo**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**4a. underlines the importance of a well-functioning Community patent for the creation of an internal market for research and innovations, as well as the importance of standardisation for the**

*development of innovative products;*

Or. en

**Amendment 26**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*4a. Stresses the importance of alternative sources of financing for innovative enterprises engaged in research and development, in particular for the financing of projects targeted at bringing the results of R&D to market in collaboration with universities and academic centres; supports in particular the creation of pan-European venture capital instruments, bringing together public and private investment, to create a more effective funding environment for high-growth and innovative SMEs, and encourages the Commission to work with the EIB, EIF and Member State experts bodies to take this work forwards as a priority;*

Or. en

**Amendment 27**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

5. Urges the Commission to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches, exploiting new technologies and procedures and

5. Urges the Commission to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches, exploiting new technologies and procedures, *for example*

disseminating best practices in public administration which will reduce bureaucracy and embrace citizen-centred policies;

*in the field of e-government*, and disseminating best practices in public administration which will reduce bureaucracy and embrace citizen-centred policies;

Or. de

**Amendment 28**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Urges the Commission to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches, *exploiting* new technologies and procedures and *disseminating* best practices in public administration *which will reduce* bureaucracy and *embrace citizen-centred* policies;

*Amendment*

5. Urges the Commission *and Member States* to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches *on e-administration such as e-health and e-procurement, and encourages public administrations to make full use of* new technologies and procedures and *disseminate these* best practices in public administration *with the effect of reducing* bureaucracy and *embracing citizen and consumer-focused* policies;

Or. en

**Amendment 29**  
**Amalia Sartori, Catherine Soullie**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Urges the Commission to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches, *exploiting* new technologies and procedures and *disseminating* best practices in public administration which will reduce

*Amendment*

5. Urges the Commission to support the efforts of the public sector to adopt innovative approaches *and launch the new research programme on innovation in the public sector within the scheduled timeframe in order to identify the best*

bureaucracy and embrace citizen-centred policies;

technologies and procedures and **disseminate** best practices in public administration which will reduce bureaucracy and embrace citizen-centred policies;

Or. it

**Amendment 30**  
**Mitro Repo**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 – subparagraph 1 (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***stresses the importance of the public sector to set an example in promoting cross-border electronic public procurement and strengthening public confidence in the internal digital market;***

Or. en

**Amendment 31**  
**Heide Rühle**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules and enable contracting authorities across the board to make actual use of pre-commercial procurement;

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules and enable contracting authorities across the board to make actual use of pre-commercial procurement; ***calls also the Commission and the Member States to encourage the inclusion of social, environmental, fair trade and innovative criteria in public procurement;***

**Amendment 32**  
**Kyriacos Triantaphyllides**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules and enable contracting authorities across the board to make actual use of pre-commercial procurement;

*Amendment*

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission, ***as part of the general review of the public procurement legal framework***, to clarify ***and simplify*** the relevant rules and enable contracting authorities across the board to make actual use of pre-commercial procurement;

Or. en

**Amendment 33**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. ***Calls*** on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to ***clarify*** the relevant ***rules*** and enable contracting authorities ***across the board*** to make ***actual*** use of pre-commercial procurement;

*Amendment*

6. ***Considers that there is significant untapped potential for promoting innovation via public procurement; accordingly calls*** on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of ***e-procurement and especially the take up of*** pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; ***stresses that SMEs should be more actively engaged in the process of working up new and innovative solutions to the delivery of public services, including social and environmental services***; calls in

particular on the Commission to *simplify, and if necessary introduce more flexibility, into* the relevant *State Aid* and *Public Procurement rules* to enable contracting authorities to make *better* use of pre-commercial procurement *as a tool for supporting innovation*;

Or. en

**Amendment 34**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules and *enable* contracting authorities *across the board to make actual* use of pre-commercial procurement;

*Amendment*

6. Calls on the Commission and Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules and *support* contracting authorities *in making more transparent* use of pre-commercial procurement, *without prejudice to the competition rules which are applicable*;

Or. de

**Amendment 35**  
**Amalia Sartori, Catherine Soullie**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6**

*Draft opinion*

6. Calls on the Commission *and* Member States to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the

*Amendment*

6. Calls on the Commission, Member States *and local and regional authorities* to encourage the use of pre-commercial procurement, *including joint and electronic procurement, whilst paying due*

relevant rules *and enable contracting* authorities across the board to make *actual* use of pre-commercial procurement;

*attention to compliance with data protection rules*, as an integral part of the EU's innovation strategy *and with particular reference to procurement connected with innovation partnerships*; calls in particular on the Commission to clarify the relevant rules *by providing guidelines enabling public* authorities across the board to make *the best* use of pre-commercial procurement;

Or. it

**Amendment 36**  
**Mitro Repo**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*6a. urges the European Commission to come forward with legislative proposals required for the creation of a fully functioning Digital Single Market by 2015 as this would significantly improve the framework conditions for innovation; stresses that the initiatives must be ambitious in particular in key areas such as copyright, private copying levies, e-commerce including consumer policy for e-commerce, and utilization of public sector information;*

Or. en

**Amendment 37**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**6a. Strongly endorses the Commission EU Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) programme to identify technology-oriented public sector challenges and fund R&D projects to develop new solutions to both old and emerging problems, and calls on the Commission roll this out as a top priority;**

Or. en

**Amendment 38**

**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Constance Le Grip**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to launch a strategy and an open dialogue aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products without undermining wages.**

**deleted**

Or. en

**Amendment 39**

**Andreas Mölzer**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to **launch a strategy and an open dialogue** aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to **adopt an action plan** aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal

services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products without undermining wages.

market and support affordable innovative products without undermining wages.

Or. de

**Amendment 40**  
**Malcolm Harbour**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to *launch a strategy and an open dialogue aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products without undermining wages.*

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to *place the completion of the Single Market, including measures to promote a Digital Single Market, at the heart of innovation policy, as this will deliver more competitive prices for consumers, support the development of innovative products, boost job creation in the EU and generate new EU growth opportunities in lead markets;*

Or. en

**Amendment 41**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to launch a strategy and an open dialogue aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products without undermining wages.*

*Amendment*

*deleted*

Or. de

**Amendment 42**  
**Toine Manders**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to launch a strategy and an open dialogue aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products ***without undermining wages.***

*Amendment*

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to launch a strategy and an open dialogue aimed at tackling high prices, in particular for basic goods and services, in the internal market and support affordable innovative products, ***services and business models in order to improve the competitiveness of the European Union.***

Or. nl

**Amendment 43**  
**Catherine Soullie**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***7a. Considers that public funding to innovation should be increased; therefore invites the Commission to review the rules applicable to state aid, including by making more flexible the limit of 50% for public co-funding;***

Or. en

**Amendment 44**  
**Morten Løkkegaard**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***7a. Finds that there is a lack of access to finance for companies in the start-up process; Therefore, invites the Commission to look into the possibilities of creating a European venture capital fund capable of investing in early-stage 'proof of concept' and business development prior to commercial investment;***

Or. en

**Amendment 45**

**Constance Le Grip, Amalia Sartori, Catherine Soullie, Damien Abad**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***7a. Calls on the Member States to modernise their education systems, particularly in the scientific field; encourages greater consultation and closer partnerships between businesses and universities in order to ensure that the skills acquired in the course of studies correspond as closely as possible to the requirements of the various sectors of the economy; stresses that it is important to improve the attractiveness of European higher education institutions for researchers and, for that purpose, supports making the European 'Marie Curie' scholarships system permanent, as it plays an essential role in encouraging researcher mobility within the European Union;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 46**  
**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Philippe Juvin**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7a. Highlights the necessity of speeding-up and modernising standard-setting to better facilitate interoperability and foster innovation in fast growing global markets;**

Or. en

**Amendment 47**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7a. Calls on the Commission and Member States to adopt without delay the EU patent and the European patent court system under the enhanced cooperation procedure;**

Or. de

**Amendment 48**  
**Jürgen Creutzmann**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**7b. Welcomes the promised Commission initiative to accelerate and modernise the adoption of European standards, particularly the adjustments necessitated by the special dynamics of the ICT sector**

*and improved access to standards for SMEs;*

Or. de

**Amendment 49**

**Catherine Soullie, Amalia Sartori, Constance Le Grip, Philippe Juvin**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***7a. Insists on the importance of achieving a well-functioning European Research Area by 2014, by establishing an overarching governance structure, progressively aligning national programmes, streamlining administration rules and enhancing cross-border mobility of researchers;***

Or. en