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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on a European agenda for the collaborative economy
(2016/0000(INI))

Rapporteur: Dario Tamburrano

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recognises the fact that all collaborative economies, covering the full spectrum from market-oriented to gift-based, are rooted in human cooperative behaviour and that no matter how diverse they are, or will become, they are all identified by resource sharing, the active empowerment of citizens, community-accepted innovation, and the intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) as a key enabler;
2. Emphasises that ICTs allow innovative ideas within the collaborative economies to evolve quickly and efficiently, while connecting and empowering participants, reducing the need for intermediation, decreasing direct costs and overheads, channelling rich information flows and reinforcing trust between peers;
3. Underlines that the sharing of underused assets releases a wealth of positive environmental and other externalities, thus making industries and services more resource-efficient, lowers the up-front costs of market entry and creates opportunities;
4. Points out that collaborative economies thrive in communities in which knowledge- and education-sharing models are strong, thereby consolidating a culture of open innovation, supporting open-sourced hardware and software, and expanding our heritage of common goods and creative commons;
5. Urges the Commission to ensure that the EU develops the highest international standards regarding (a) social protection for '*workpreneurs*' in collaborative economies, (b) safety guarantees for the customers of collaborative economies, and (c) cohabitation synergies with traditional business models;
6. Calls on the Commission and on Member States to open non-exclusive, experimentation-oriented spaces for collaborative economies and to promote guidelines on this matter in European, national and local legislation, while fostering digital connectivity and literacy, supporting European entrepreneurs and incentivising Industry 4.0 hubs;
7. Calls on the Commission to ensure that EU legislation and policies are future-friendly and provide legal certainty in order to unleash the full potential of collaborative economies for EU businesses and citizens, while redefining and modernising – where necessary – the concepts of 'work/service', 'worker' and 'service provider';
8. Notes that collaborative economies are increasingly important in the energy sector, allowing consumers, individuals and communities to engage efficiently in several decentralised phases of the renewable energy cycle, including self-production and self-consumption, storage and distribution.