



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

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**2014/2233(INI)**

7.5.2015

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on International Trade

on the external impact of EU trade and investment policy on public-private initiatives in countries outside the EU  
(2014/2233(INI))

Rapporteur: Dita Charanzová

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls the importance of public-private partnerships (PPP) as a vehicle for economic growth, innovation, competitiveness and job creation both in the single market and abroad; stresses the strategic role that PPP's have in modernising infrastructure, in particular energy, water, road and digital infrastructure; notes that European companies are well equipped to compete for and operate such arrangements;
2. Stresses that the positive impact of PPPs is derived from improved delivery of projects, a good benefit-cost ratio, the possibility for long-term financing of costs, the stimulus provided for innovation and research and a more flexible and skilled management environment;
3. Takes account of the fact that PPPs are characterised by a long life-cycle, sometimes extending from 10 to 30 years. Believes that the life-cycle of PPPs should be meaningful and consistent with the pursued objectives in terms of work, goods and services to be provided, without artificially distorting competition or creating higher costs and an unnecessary burden for public administrations and tax-payers;
4. Recalls that there are a number of inherent risks in infrastructure projects (in particular those relating to building, the environment, telecommunications and energy networks) and that the government, through PPPs, transfers part of the risk to the private contractor so that both can reap the benefits but also share the risks and responsibilities of such projects; stresses furthermore that adequate risk sharing is essential in order to reduce the costs of a project and ensure its successful implementation and viability;
5. Recalls that PPPs are characterised by their high value and technical complexity, and by the parties' long-term commitment; notes that they consequently require appropriate levels of both flexibility and procedural safeguards to ensure transparency, non-discrimination and equal treatment;
6. Highlights the need to ensure fair competition and access for all parties involved in a PPP, notably through fair and transparent selection procedures through which governments develop such partnerships;
7. Stresses that the development of PPPs must take into account, in particular, the challenges for EU-based SMEs in competing on international markets under a PPP and the need to ensure that SMEs gain concrete, fair and reciprocal access, notably in the utilities sectors, as set out in Directive 2014/25/EU; highlights in this respect the importance of specific rules allowing for cluster or grouped tendering by SMEs and the use of open and transparent subcontracting chains;
8. Recalls that PPP's should bring high added value to citizens and consumers, ensure quality services and/or goods and provide concrete competitive and economic advantages for public administrations, both at government and local level, while avoiding creating an additional burden or losses for the public sector;
9. Stresses that, while PPP arrangements may take various forms, single market legislation

sets high procedural standards; notes that this legislation was revised and consolidated in Directives 2014/24/EU and 2014/25/EU on public procurement, in Directive 2014/23/EU on concessions, and in guidance on institutionalised PPPs; calls on the Commission to consider the possibility of providing developing countries with technical assistance and advice on how to prepare and implement EU standards on their markets;

10. Stresses that EU markets for public procurement are largely open to international competition, with rules aimed at enhancing fair and effective competition within the single market, achieving inclusive growth based on the principle of contracts being awarded in line with the most economically advantageous tender and providing a level playing field for international investors; recalls that there is no discrimination on the basis of foreign ownership or control, and that companies from abroad may establish themselves locally in order to participate in PPPs;
11. Urges the Commission to ensure that the Union's trade agreements contain the necessary conditions to enable European companies to compete on equal terms with domestic companies abroad; considers that this includes access to related services, together with clear and equitable rules on access to tendering information and on award criteria; stresses that greater transparency and the development of online procedures is of particular importance for small and medium-sized enterprises and for the conclusion of durable and inclusive PPPs;
12. Underlines that, in order to attract the private sector to PPPs, cross-border in particular, it is paramount to provide investors with enough assurances that their long-term investment will benefit from a secure environment, legal certainty and good governance; stresses therefore the need to ensure effective protection of investments and economic assets held by European companies as part of PPP arrangements outside the EU;
13. Calls on the Commission to work within the realm of trade policies and agreements with a view to opening up market access for European companies in the context of PPP arrangements outside the EU;
14. Calls on the Commission to ensure that EU-backed bodies such as the European Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) can also access and share information with SMEs on how to enter PPPs in states outside the EU and promote small and medium-sized companies' participation in PPPs in third countries;
15. Calls on the Commission, while negotiating trade and investment agreements with other countries, to support the dismantling of barriers for EU companies, and in particular SMEs, so that they can enter PPPs in these countries and support the professional mobility of EU citizens in these states, and with a view to enabling them to compete on equal footing with domestic companies and companies from third states.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	7.5.2015
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 29 -: 5 0: 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Dita Charanzová, Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, Nicola Danti, Dennis de Jong, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Evelyne Gebhardt, Maria Grapini, Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Robert Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Antonio López-Istúriz White, Marlene Mizzi, Eva Paunova, Jiří Pospíšil, Marcus Pretzell, Robert Rochefort, Virginie Rozière, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Igor Šoltes, Ivan Štefanec, Róza Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein, Mylène Troszczynski, Mihai Țurcanu, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Marco Zullo
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Pascal Arimont, Biljana Borzan, Birgit Collin-Langen, Jens Nilsson, Julia Reda, Sabine Verheyen
<b>Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote</b>	Petras Auštrevičius, Damiano Zoffoli