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<Commission>{IMCO}Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</Commission>

<RefProc>2016/2100(INI)</RefProc>

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<TitreType>DRAFT OPINION</TitreType>

<CommissionResp>of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection</CommissionResp>

<CommissionInt>for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs</CommissionInt>

<Titre>on Annual Report on EU Competition Policy</Titre>

<DocRef>(2016/2100(INI))</DocRef>

Rapporteur: <Depute>Andreas Schwab</Depute>

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses that competition policy is a vital part of the internal market, as provided for in the Treaty; reiterates that a competitive single market is needed to boost growth in the EU and that efforts to preserve fair competition in the EU as a whole are in the interest of consumers and SMEs;

2. Emphasises that EU competition law and authorities need to guarantee a level playing field in the digital single market; calls on the Commission to pursue a policy of active, effective and accelerated enforcement of the competition rules, in particular in the online search and mobile internet sector, in order to remove barriers to innovation and to enable EU consumers to seize all the opportunities that a genuine digital single market can offer;

3. Calls for active monitoring of all possible competition issues related to geo-blocking and other restrictions on online sales; welcomes the ongoing e-commerce sector enquiry, which should be conducted thoroughly and brought to an expeditious close and which may provide useful input for other actions within the digital single market strategy;

4. Reiterates the need for the timely and proper implementation of Directive 2014/104/EU on antitrust damages actions, and encourages the Commission in the strongest possible terms to monitor its implementation closely and to pursue this issue with the Member States;

5. Looks forward to the Commission’s proposal on the ECN+, and calls for the full involvement of the European Parliament under the ordinary legislative procedure; considers that effective tools to tackle distortions of competition are crucial for the functioning of the single market, and that it is imperative to ensure that consumers and businesses can rely on the consistent application of EU competition rules throughout the EU.