DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Budgets

on the mandate for the trilogue on the 2016 draft budget (2015/2074(BUD))

Rapporteur: Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz
SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Recalls that the Single Market constitutes a core policy and priority area for economic growth; is convinced that efforts to address the economic crisis in the Union should build on a stronger and more integrated Single Market, which requires appropriate budgetary allocations;

2. Believes that a consumer policy with adequate funding is of utmost importance to any effort to increase consumer confidence in a more transparent Single Market; calls, therefore, for focus to be placed both on reinforcing consumer safety and on adjusting consumer rights to societal and economic changes;

3. Emphasises that a balanced envelope can give effective support to the functioning of the customs union and to combating fraud, thereby guaranteeing both customer protection and financial recovery on own resources;

4. Recalls the importance of financing the ‘Single Market Forum’ (SMF); asks the Commission to set up a legal base in secondary legislation in view of securing the continuation of the SMF beyond 2016;

5. Considers that Member States should allocate appropriate funding for SOLVIT so that all EU citizens and businesses may have access to guidance on issues such as business set-up, trade, services, family benefits, visa and residence rights;

6. Underlines the need for appropriate funding for the COSME programme and the Enterprise Europe Network in 2016, with particular attention given to the obstacles posed to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by the EU’s economic and financial limitations;

7. Emphasises the importance of standards for competitive undertakings and SMEs playing an essential role in driving EU technological progress; stresses, therefore, the need for adequate financing in support of the standardisation activities of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI);

8. Underlines the need for financing the multilingual facility for the online dispute resolution (ODR) platform; believes that well-functioning ODR systems across the EU will, on the one hand, encourage consumers to find solutions to issues encountered when buying products and services in the Single Market, and, on the other hand, boost online purchases, especially from traders in other Member States; considers that the increase in online and cross-border trade within the EU means new business opportunities and stronger economic growth.