

# PROGRAMME

**Public Hearing**  
**Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection**

## **Harmonisation as a principle for Single Market legislation** *A key to EU competitiveness*

**22 January 2019 from 10h30 to 12h30**

**European Parliament, Brussels**  
**József Antall building, Room 6Q2**

### **10h30 - 10h35      Opening remarks**

- Mrs Anneleen Van Bossuyt, IMCO Chair
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### **10h35 - 11h15      Panel discussion 1: Spill over effects of EU harmonisation - is it beneficial to EU businesses and consumers?**

*EU harmonisation is key to ensure consistency of legal framework, so that the same rules and standards apply to businesses that operate in more than one Member State. This also reduces regulatory burdens and costs of compliance for businesses operating cross-border. Furthermore, harmonisation brings transparency and trust for consumers through common protection rules.*

*The aim of this panel is to provide the business and consumers' perspective on EU harmonisation and to discuss the practical benefits it brings: possibilities of attracting investments, opportunities to expand both across the Union and globally and competing on international level for businesses, and possibilities for consumers to benefit from wider choices, and high quality products and services at lower prices.*

#### **Speakers:**

- Business representatives: (10 min each)  
Eurochambres: Mr E. Bertrand, Head of the Single Market policy.  
Business Europe: Mr M. Barysas, Director for Internal Market.  
Eurocommerce: Mr I. Bruggeman, Head of Single Market.
- Consumer representative: (10 min)  
European Bureau of Consumers' Unions (BEUC):  
Mrs M. Goyens, Director General

### **11h15 - 11h35      Q&A session**

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**11h35 - 12h05**

**Panel discussion 2: The future of harmonisation - assessment and actions to take.**

*On 22 November 2018 the Commission presented an assessment of the Single Market in its communication “The Single Market in a changing world”. According to the Commission, the Single Market is the best asset to generate growth and foster competitiveness of European companies in the globalised markets. Thanks to the harmonisation of national rules and common standards across Member States, regulatory obstacles have been removed for over 80% of industrial products and the intra-Union trade in goods and services has grown from 27% relative to the size of the Union Gross Domestic Product in 2004, to 33% in 2017. The communication also underlines that European harmonised standards have often become the models for global standards, through free trade agreements that promote them.*

*The aim of this panel is to take stock of the role of harmonisation in the process of the integration of the Single Market and discuss with EU legislators the perspective and need for future actions. This would also include the discussion on future development of harmonised standards, taking into account Commission’s annual work program for European standardisation 2019 and the recent communication on harmonised standards, which defines actions to make standardisation in Europe more efficient, meet the challenges of rapidly evolving technological developments, emerging economic trends and growth models while promoting synergies with international and global standards.*

**Speakers:**

- European Commission (10 min): Mr J. Nunes de Almeida, DG GROW, Director of Single Market Policy, Regulation and Implementation.
- CEN/Cenelec (10 min): Mrs C. Missiroli, Director for Standards and Digital Solutions.
- Council of the European Union, High Level Group on Competitiveness and Growth (10 min): Mr J. Känkanen, Chair.

**12h05 - 12h25**

**Q&A session**

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**12h25 - 12h30**

**Closing remarks**

- Mrs Anneleen Van Bossuyt, IMCO Chair

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