

DG MARKET INITIATIVES – ROLLING WORKING PROGRAMME 2013 FOR IMCO

GOVERNANCE OF THE SINGLE MARKET		
TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION	COMMENTS
Internal Market Scoreboard n° 26	Published on 18 February 2013	The Internal Market Scoreboard measures Member States' performance implementing Internal Market legislation.
Commission Recommendation on the operation of SOLVIT	April 2013	As announced in the SOLVIT strategy (to be adopted in February 2012), the new Commission Recommendation intends to update and replace the current Recommendation of 2002 on the use of SOLVIT. It will clarify SOLVIT's mandate, set out basic case handling rules, clarify the role of SOLVIT centres and the Commission, etc.
Online Single Market Scoreboard	2nd quarter 2013	This initiative will be the successor of the document "Making the Single Market deliver – Annual governance check-up 2011". It will assess the performance of the tools and networks that are put to use at all stages of the Single Market governance cycle, replacing annual reporting about individual tools. It will do so in a user-friendly interactive format, to be published online only. A "fitness check" table will give a general overview of the performance of Member States in all areas. The following initiatives will be included: Online SOLVIT report; Online EU Pilot report; Online Your Europe / Your Europe Advice report; Online IMI report; Online report on the Points of Single Contact; Online Scoreboard + reports on Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC), European Consumer Centres (ECC), Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), EURES.

Action Plan Your Europe	3rd quarter 2013	<p>The main objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - make the Single Market work for the benefit of citizens and enterprises - remedy the lack of information about single market rights as one of the obstacles to growth and employment.
Second annual report on the integration of the Single Market	4th quarter 2013	<p>The report will present an analysis of the state of the Single Market integration in particular in areas with the highest growth potential (e.g. services and network industries). It will identify the main policy challenges and set priorities for action.</p> <p>The report becomes a "Single Market pillar" of the Annual Growth Survey in the framework of the European semester and will form the basis for the Single Market policy recommendations made in the context of the European Semester.</p>

SERVICES		
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Green Paper on unfair trading practices in the retail supply chain	Adopted on 31 January 2013	<p>The three-month long consultation will help the Commission to assess the magnitude of unfair trading practices and gather evidence on their effect on the economy and on cross-border activity. It will examine the effectiveness of self-regulatory and legislative frameworks put in place to address those practices at national level and will look into the question of whether these divergent approaches may lead to a fragmentation of the Single Market. All interested parties are invited to submit their views in response to the questions raised by the Green Paper by 30 April 2013.</p>
European Retail Action Plan	Adopted on 31 January 2013	<p>This Action Plan sets out a strategy to improve the competitiveness of the retail sector and to enhance the sector's economic, environmental and social performance. The actions in the European Retail Action Plan relate to five key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Empowering consumers through better information;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving accessibility to retail services by promoting an exchange of good practices between Member States on commercial and spatial planning - Fairer and more sustainable trading relationships along the food and non-food supply chain - Ensuring a better link between retail and innovation - Creating a better work environment, for example through better matching the needs of employers and staff skills.
<p>Bank Accounts legislative package</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>The initiative aims at increasing the transparency and comparability of bank account fees, as well as to render bank account switching easier for consumers. The objective is to ensure that any person legally residing in the EU can have access to a payment account offering basic services, e.g. the ability to deposit and withdraw cash and execute payments including online, provided s/he does not already hold one. Restricted access to payment accounts and to basic means of payment restricts e-commerce opportunities for citizens, hampering growth.</p>
<p>Communication from the Commission: Notification of evidence of formal qualifications - Directive 2005/36/EC on recognition of professional qualifications (Annex V)</p>	<p>3rd quarter 2013</p>	<p>This Communication aims to inform the public and Member States of new or amended professional titles of medical doctor, nurse responsible for general care, dental practitioner, veterinary surgeon, midwife, pharmacist and architect adopted by Member States at national level. Once published in the Official Journal of the European Union, it enables citizens who hold these titles and wish to work in another Member State to benefit from automatic recognition of their qualifications in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC which stipulates the minimum training requirements for these professions.</p>

<p>Further guidance on Article 20 (2) of the Services Directive¹</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>Following initial clarification on the principle of non-discrimination of the service recipients enshrined in Article 20 (2) of the Services Directive (Commission Staff Working Document with a view to establishing guidance on the application of Article 20 (2) of Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market), the Commission is planning to issue additional guidance on the basis of further experience with the national implementation of this provision. This guidance will take into account regulatory developments which reduce the remaining obstacles for businesses offering their services cross-border and will offer a practical explanation of the issue at stake from the consumer and business perspective.</p>
<p>Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the application of the Postal Directive</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>Article 23 of the postal Directive 97/67/EC as amended by Directives 2002/39/EC and 2008/6 EC requires the Commission to report on the application of the Directive to the European Parliament and Council every 4 years, and on the first occasion no later than 31 December 2013. The report should include appropriate information on market developments including economic, social, employment, technological and quality of service aspects. The reporting period will cover the period directly after the full market opening (by 31/12/ 2011 for 16 Member States, by 31/12/ 2013 for the remaining 11). The report will identify any necessary steps to improve the application of the postal acquis. It will analyse the relationship between current developments and trends, and it will provide additional perspectives on the postal sector.</p>
<p>Recommendation on responsible gambling advertising</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>The Recommendation is one of the initiatives foreseen in the Communication 'Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling' adopted on 23 October 2012. The Recommendation will help to ensure that citizens in the EU are aware of the inherent risks associated with gambling and that operators have a set of common principles to abide with for</p>

¹ Article 20, paragraph 2 of Directive 2006/123/EC (the "Services Directive", which had to be implemented by Member States by 28.12.2009) prohibits discrimination applied by service providers on grounds of the nationality or the place of residence of their customers. This provision allows providers to apply different treatment, insofar as they are "directly justified by objective reasons" (such as higher costs linked to the provision of service in another Member State, etc).

		<p>socially responsible advertising. The principles the Recommendation will include are that no underage gambling is permitted or enticed, that gambling is not to be portrayed as a solution to financial problems or to imply that it allows for social acceptance and that operators are not to engage in unsolicited mail. It will complement the Unfair commercial practices Directive.</p>
<p>Recommendation on common protection of consumers of gambling services</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>The Recommendation is one of the initiatives foreseen in the Communication 'Towards a comprehensive European framework for online gambling' adopted on 23 October 2012. The Recommendation will help provide greater clarity for consumers to have sufficient information and feel assured that an authorised site they choose to play on has adequate safeguard measures in place. Through a set of common principles the aim is to provide a high level of protection throughout the EU. The Recommendation will encompass a set of principles, such as effective age verification, registration and identification controls, financial limit-setting possibilities and no playing on credit.</p>
<p>Communication on regulated professions</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>The purpose of the communication would be to take stock of recent developments in Member States in the area of regulated professions and to devise a methodology for facilitating the mutual evaluation exercise foreseen in the proposal modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive. The mutual evaluation foreseen in the proposal will focus on entry restrictions (qualifications and reserved activities). The communication could highlight and analyse pivotal aspects of the reforms carried out in certain Member States to facilitate the access to regulated professions. On the basis of the reforms undertaken at national level, the communication will present a methodology for a justification of the need and proportionality of regulated professions.</p>

E-COMMERCE

TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION	COMMENTS
Annual Report on the progress achieved with the implementation of the e-Commerce Action Plan	March 2013	The E-commerce Communication COM(2011)942 contained an action plan, comprising 16 key actions, with a view to eliminating the main obstacles to the Digital Single Market, and announced annual progress reports on its implementation.
Follow up to the Green Paper on parcel delivery	2nd quarter 2013	Drawing on the responses to the Green Paper on parcel delivery, the roadmap for completing the Single Market for parcels will be prepared for spring 2013. This roadmap will provide a framework for action to enable customers and e-retailers to benefit from an integrated EU parcel delivery system. It will identify priority actions to be completed by all stakeholders to foster innovation, achieve interoperability, and design sound governance for an integrated and efficient European parcel area.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

TITLE	INDICATIVE TARGET DATE FOR ADOPTION	COMMENTS
<p>Proposal for a Council decision on concluding the revision of the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA)</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>The Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) is to date the only legally binding agreement in the WTO on the subject of government procurement. The Parties to the GPA are: Armenia, Canada, European Union, Hong Kong, China, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands with respect to Aruba, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, United States. A commitment for further negotiation has been built in to the Agreement (Article XXIV:7(b)) and the negotiation was launched in 1999. On 30 March 2012, the negotiators agreed on all elements of the negotiation. This means that the revision Agreement can enter into force subject to the submission of instruments of acceptance by GPA Parties. In the EU this requires a Council decision after obtaining consent from the EP.</p>
<p>Communication on a comprehensive strategy to strengthen Europe's defence sector</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>The Strategy will set out options to foster the competitiveness and the efficiency of the European defence sector through a consistent and integrated use of EU policies that have an impact on defence.</p>
<p>E-invoicing in public procurement</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>This initiative would eliminate the fragmentation of the Internal Market by promoting the use of B2G e-invoicing in the public sector and enhancing the interoperability of national e-invoicing systems. It would help to reduce the operating costs of enterprises and the procurement costs of public authorities by fostering the automation of procedures related to invoicing.</p>
<p>Commission's 1st annual report on e-procurement</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2013</p>	<p>The objective is to maintain political momentum of e-procurement implementation.</p>

<p>Annual Public Procurement Implementation Review 2013 – Staff Working Document</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>The correct application of EU public procurement rules across the EU Member States remains problematic. The Commission decided to step up activities aimed at collecting, analysing and reporting on an annual basis on the information available on the application of the public procurement rules in Member States. In 2012, the Commission published its first Annual Public Procurement Implementation Review. The Annual Review is a valuable means of sharing knowledge for the Member States, the European institutions and stakeholders across Europe. Conclusions from the Review will also feed into future policy initiatives to improve application of the EU public procurement rules.</p>
<p>Procurement Thresholds Regulation</p>	<p>4th quarter 2013</p>	<p>The revision of the thresholds of the procurement directives is necessary in order to comply with the EU's obligations under the WTO Government Procurement Agreement.</p>
<p>Commission Decision relating to article 30 of Directive 2004/17 (public procurement)</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>The objective is to deal in a timely and efficient manner with request from Member States on contracting entities for exemption of activities in the area of energy, water, transport or postal services from the scope of the public procurement rules. Ensure timely adoption of the related Commission decisions.</p>