

# Recommendation on measures to improve the functioning of the single market

## Committee for Internal Market and Consumer Protection

29 September 2009

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# Reasons for the Recommendation

- Single market not functioning as well as it should
  - Single Market Review and the results of the public consultation
  - fact-finding carried out with Member States
- Even more urgent need for an efficient single market in the current economic context (priority initiative)

# How to address shortcomings?

- Stronger ownership of the single market and closer partnerships between Member States and the Commission to make the single market work better
- Need for closer cooperation and shared responsibility underlined in 2009 Competitiveness Council conclusions

# Approach while preparing the Recommendation

- Bottom-up approach and close cooperation between the Commission and Member States
- Pragmatic approach
  - measures draw closely on good practices that have proved to work well in some Member States
  - national authorities can choose practices that will work best in their national setting

# Structure of the Recommendation

- **Recommendations** setting up the policy framework

And in the Annex:

- **Concrete measures** that Member States are invited to take to implement the recommendations
- List of **practices** of certain Member States, on which these measures are based

# CONTENT OF THE RECOMMENDATION

Internal Market & Services DG

# Internal coordination on single market issues

- **Issue:** dispersed competences for single market issues among different national authorities
- **Proposed measures:**
  - assign function of coordination on SM issues
  - ensure coordination within and between national, regional and local levels of government

# Cross-border cooperation on single market issues

- **Issue:** need of more awareness and support for administrative cooperation
- **Proposed measures:**
  - support networks at national level (through training, raising awareness, sufficient resources)
  - organise exchanges of officials



# Transposing single market Directives

- **Issue:** still need to improve timeliness and quality of transposition
- **Proposed measures:**
  - prepare well in advance for transposition and ensure cooperation between officials responsible
  - involve national parliaments and other stakeholders during negotiations and the transposition process

# Market monitoring

- **Issue:** importance of market monitoring to understand which sectors do not function well for citizens and businesses
- **Proposed measures:**
  - actively contribute to EU level market monitoring
  - consider carrying out such monitoring at national level

# Applying single market rules

- **Issue:** in some cases still insufficient training and awareness about single market rules among civil servants
- **Proposed measures:**
  - provide life-long training to civil servants regarding single market rules
  - provide practical guidance and advice regarding application of SM rules in practice

# Enforcing single market rules

- **Issue:** need of further support for problem-solving mechanisms, and of more training for judges
- **Proposed measures:**
  - ensure that simple and inexpensive alternative dispute resolution procedures are available
  - provide life-long training and easy access to information on single market rules to judges

# Evaluating and assessing national legislation

- **Issue:** importance of regular evaluation of application and reviews of national legislation
- **Proposed measures:**
  - adopt a systematic approach to evaluate national legislation which implements single market rules
  - review the other existing national rules to ensure there are no obstacles to the single market

# Providing information on single market issues

- **Issue:** still insufficient information about single market rights among citizens and businesses
- **Proposed measures:**
  - make practical information easily accessible and ensure good links between EU and national sources of information
  - promote and raise awareness about EU information systems

# STAFF WORKING DOCUMENTS

Internal Market & Services DG

# Commission activities to improve the functioning of the single market

This Staff Working Document provides a non-exhaustive list of activities currently undertaken by the Commission in the areas covered by the Recommendation, e.g.:

- transposition workshops, guidance documents to support transposition
- various mechanisms to support problem-solving
- work on the Single Market Assistance Services project to improve provision of information



# Administrative cooperation in the single market

This Staff Working Document provides an overview of the main existing networks established by the Commission for administrative cooperation in the area of the single market, e.g.:

- Internal Market Information system in the services area
- Rapid alert systems in the goods area
- Consumer Protection Cooperation network in consumer policy area

# Next steps

- Monitoring of the progress in implementation in close cooperation with Member States

**Further information at:**

[http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/strategy/index\\_en.htm#recom mendation](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/strategy/index_en.htm#recom mendation)