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Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

PROGRAMME

Hearing of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

Implementing the Services Directive: Lift-Off for Mission Growth

20 February 2013 from 15h00 to 17h30
European Parliament, Brussels
József Antall building (JAN), room 2Q2

15.00 - 15.15 Opening session

Opening by the Chairman, Mr Malcolm Harbour

Statement by the IMCO Rapporteur, Ms Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

"Is there a Services Directive fatigue? Are the expectations too high?"

15.15 - 16.30 Session 1

The response to the crisis: removing barriers and unleashing growth in services

Focus: CHALLENGES IN THE STATE OF PLAY.

Examples of unjustified barriers and restrictions. Concrete solutions to deal with obstacles and to ensure better and correct implementation and enforcement of existing rules. How to unleash the full potential of services in the internal market and give a boost to growth.

Panel discussion with:

- Jacques Pelkmans, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), on "Securing EU Growth from Services"
- Mechteld Oomen (Vice Chair of the Internal Market policy committee) Business Europe to highlight main barriers from business perspective, with focus on cross-border challenges

- Thomas Murray, Director of EU Affairs and the Internal Market, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Irish presidency: benefits of implementing the Services Directive
- Veronica Anna-Maria Nilsson, Confederal Secretary, ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation)

Questions & Answers session, with possibility for the public to intervene

16.30 - 17.20 Session 2

Keeping up with innovation: maximising the economic effects for business and consumers

Focus: HOW TO ADDRESS NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN SERVICES & NEXT STEPS.

Definition of services has evolved. How to take due account of "new" types of services such as digital services and mixed packages (goods+services) in the implementation of the services directive. What can the use of services standards add? How to ensure consumers are not discriminated against on grounds of their residence or nationality. How to improve and develop 'Points of Single Contact' to match these developments.

Panel discussion with:

- Reinhold Schranz, European Consumer Centre, Austria: what's in it for consumers in implementing the Services Directive
- François Momboisse, President, eCommerce Europe: challenges for new digital services
- Lena Johansson, Director General, Kommerskollegium, Swedish Point of Single Contact (PSC): the imperative of user-friendly one-stop-shops

Questions & Answers, with possibility for the public to intervene

17.20 - 17.30 Closing comments

Conclusions by the Rapporteur, Ms Anna Maria Corazza Bildt

Closing remarks by the Chair, Mr Malcolm Harbour

Important notice for persons who wish to attend the hearing:

This hearing is open to the public. However, for SECURITY REASONS, access can only be granted in response to a prior request for an access badge.

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(providing the following details:

full name, date of birth and address, nationality, the type of identity card
(passport, drivers licence, ID card etc.), the number of the ID card)
no later than 15/02/13 at 17:00

e-mail: **imco-secretariat@ep.europa.eu**

You may obtain your one-day access badge to the EP from 14.00 **on the day of the hearing** at the main entrance of the József Antall (JAN) building (see EP map)
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