



Plenary sitting

B8-0557/2018

5.12.2018

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the single market package
(2018/2903(RSP))

Dita Charanzová
on behalf of the ALDE Group

B8-0557/2018

**European Parliament resolution on the single market package
(2018/2903(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission communication of 28 October 2015 entitled ‘Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business’ (COM(2015)0550),
- having regard to the Commission staff working document of 28 October 2015 entitled ‘Report on single market integration and competitiveness in the EU and its Member States’ (SWD(2015)0203),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 6 May 2015 entitled ‘A digital single market strategy for Europe’ (COM(2015)0192),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 13 April 2011 entitled ‘Single Market Act – Twelve levers to boost growth and strengthen confidence – Working together to create new growth’ (COM(2011)0206),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 3 October 2012 entitled ‘Single Market Act II – Together for new growth’ (COM(2012)0573),
- having regard to the report of 9 May 2010 by Mario Monti to the President of the Commission entitled ‘A New Strategy for the Single Market – At the Service of Europe’s Economy and Society’,
- having regard to its resolution of 11 March 2015 on single market governance within the European Semester 2015¹,
- having regard to its study of September 2014, commissioned by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, entitled ‘The cost of non-Europe in the single market’,
- having regard to its study of January 2016, commissioned by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, entitled ‘A strategy for completing the single market: the trillion euro bonus’,
- having regard to its resolution of May 2016 on the single market strategy², based on a report by the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection,
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Single European Act set a deadline of 31 December 1992 for the

¹ OJ C 316, 30.8.2016, p. 98.

² OJ C 76, 28.2.2018, p. 112.

completion of a single market; whereas 25 years on the Union must re-affirm this commitment at the highest level in order to address the challenges in the services sector, the circular economy and the digital single market;

- B. whereas the single market has been, and remains, the basis for Europe's economic success, the cornerstone of European integration and an engine of growth and jobs;
 - C. whereas the single market is not fully exploiting its potential;
 - D. whereas, according to Parliament's own research, the anticipated gain from completing the single market stands at EUR 1 trillion;
 - E. whereas a strategic approach is needed, and whereas the response to the challenges faced should be as much political as technical in nature;
 - F. whereas recent signs of transposition are not reassuring; whereas, according to the Commission communication of 22 November 2018 entitled 'The Single Market in a changing world – A unique asset in need of renewed political commitment' (COM(2018)0772), the transposition deficit for 16 directives with transposition dates between December 2017 and May 2018 was 25 % in June 2018; whereas, in the case of three public procurement directives to be transposed by April 2016, the Commission had to launch 58 infringement procedures against 21 Member States for not communicating any transposition measure, of which three are still ongoing;
1. Welcomes the overall objectives of the Commission communication on the single market in a changing world just months before the 2019 European elections and on the 25th anniversary of the single market;
 2. Emphasises that a well-functioning single market is one of the essential foundations of the European Union, and the deepening of the single market should therefore be brought back to the top of the political agenda, as it contributes to freedom, opportunity and prosperity for Europe and benefits more than 500 million Europeans and more than 21 million SMEs;
 3. Acknowledges that, while many of the proposals to further the digital single market have already been adopted, such as geo-blocking, the Electronic Communications Code, the Telecoms Single Market Regulation, including roaming charges, and the free flow of non-personal data, important proposals such as digital contracts are still under negotiation; calls for the EU institutions to continue with the negotiations and reach agreements to provide consumers with a comparable level of protection when buying digital content to when buying tangible goods;
 4. Is very concerned by the fact that several legislative initiatives are completely blocked in the Council, which has been unable to adopt a position on Commission proposals adopted six years ago, such as the directive on simplifying the transfer of motor vehicles registered in another Member State; calls on the Council to make the necessary internal reforms to put an end to this situation, which harms both our citizens and companies;
 5. Calls on the Council to ensure that it works swiftly to adopt the legislative initiatives under the single market strategy and the digital single market strategy by the end of

March 2019;

6. Emphasises the urgent need to eliminate the remaining barriers from the single market in order to achieve tangible and quick results in terms of growth, innovation, job creation, consumer choice and new business models;
7. Stresses that, despite the abolition of tariff barriers in the single market, a vast number of various unnecessary non-tariff barriers still exist; highlights that strengthening the single market requires urgent action at both EU and national level in order to address these unnecessary barriers;
8. Believes that deeper integration requires more political courage and commitment than 25 years ago and greater efforts to close the gap between rhetoric and delivery;
9. Is convinced that in order to achieve deeper integration, a level playing field is key, with the same rules for all players in all Member States;
10. Notes that, according to the Commission communication on a digital single market strategy for Europe, only 7 % of SMEs offer goods and services online to customers in other Member States and only 15 % of consumers make use of this possibility, adding that through the completion of the digital single market more than EUR 415 billion euros could be gained and many jobs could be created if the EU made use of its full potential in this area;
11. Urges the outdated separation of the ‘digital’ single market from the ‘offline’ single market to be stopped, as digital solutions are an indispensable part of the modern economy and the products and services it provides, and every corner of the single market should be digitally fit;
12. Believes that in order to defend and deepen the single market it is crucial to strongly defend the four freedoms, namely the free movement of people, services, products and capital both physically and online, and that all EU actors need to play by commonly agreed rules;
13. Stresses that the Union must work to ensure that the free movement of services is given the same priority as the free movement of goods within the single market; underlines that, despite the Services Directive, the free movement of services is far less developed than the free movement of goods;
14. Points out that new legislation should consistently reflect the market integration ambition, the need to reduce regulatory and administrative barriers and the need to be future-proof;
15. Recalls that one harmonised rule at EU level generally reduces administrative burdens in all Member States as it replaces 28 diverging rules in the single market; underlines that the Union should resist fragmentation within its borders in the same way that it resists protectionism outside the EU;
16. Points out that the single market is increasingly coming under pressure from national rules that run counter to the principles of the EU single market, especially rules at

national level that impact the free movement of goods and services; points to the examples of extra requirements and the administrative burden sometimes imposed by national and sub-national authorities beyond those deriving from provisions at EU or national level;

17. Stresses that it is important to ensure that rules deliver in practice: citizens and businesses can only enjoy the many benefits of the single market if the rules that have been jointly agreed actually work in practice;
18. Urges the Commission to make better use of existing instruments to take action against national rules that challenge the single market;
19. Acknowledges that the single market governance infrastructure should be vastly reinforced with a view to ensuring effective monitoring mechanisms and detecting inadequate transposition of single market legislation or inadequate implementation and application, thus ensuring that infringement procedures are applied where necessary;
20. Strongly supports the Commission's invitation to the European Council to dedicate an in-depth discussion at the level of heads of state or government to the single market in all its dimensions, with a view to identifying common priorities for action and appropriate mechanisms to match the much-needed renewed political commitment to the single market;
21. Asks the European Council to commit to a new pledge to complete the single market by 2025, including a new binding timetable for actions, as European leaders did in 1985;
22. Regrets that the Commission presented a number of legislative initiatives too late for the co-legislators to be able to work on them properly and adopt them before the end of this mandate;
23. Urges the next Commission, in view of the upcoming political term 2019-2024, to ambitiously plan single market actions and to present legislative proposals in a timely manner so that both co-legislators have sufficient time to examine and, where appropriate, adopt them;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.