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))

Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Daniel Dalton
on behalf of the ECR Group
The European Parliament,

– having regard 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),

– 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 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 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 11 March 2015 on single market governance within the European Semester 2015\(^1\),

– having regard to its resolution of 12 April 2016 on ‘Towards improved single market regulation’\(^2\),

– having regard to its resolution of 26 May 2016 on the single market strategy\(^3\),

\(^1\) OJ C 316, 30.8.2016, p. 98.
\(^3\) OJ C 76, 28.2.2018, p. 112.
– having regard to its resolution of 26 May 2016 on non-tariff barriers in the single market¹,

– having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the single market has made a significant positive contribution to the economies of the Member States of the European Union, acting as an engine of growth and jobs and supporting investment in domestic economies;

B. whereas the single market is not fully exploiting its potential, as barriers to investment and cross-border trade remain; whereas those non-tariff barriers are often motivated by protectionism and can be highly disproportionate with regard to their stated purpose;

C. whereas, according to Parliament’s own research, the anticipated economic gains from completing the single market could exceed EUR 1 trillion in increased GDP collectively across the Union, including significant gains in the services sector;

D. whereas a strategic approach is needed, and whereas the response to the challenges faced should be as much political as technical in nature;

E. whereas across the EU only 18 % of European businesses offer goods and services online and only 33 % of consumers shop online;

1. Welcomes the strong political message and overall objectives of the Commission communication on the single market in a changing world;

2. Regrets the fact that, for many, the ‘completion of the single market’ is simply a soundbite and not a serious political priority;

3. Underlines the commitment of the ECR Group to the single market project and supports the frank attempt by the Commission to move the debate forward in this area; laments the protectionist approaches pursued elsewhere in the European institutions, which are only to the detriment of their constituents;

4. Believes in particular that the failure to enact meaningful reform to complete the single market in services reflects the unwillingness of some parliamentarians and Member States to sincerely cooperate in order to realise the freedom to provide services;

5. 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;

6. Stresses that existing and new legislation must be fit for purpose, be proportionate and be an adaptable and flexible framework to meet the challenges of a global, dynamic economy that can support business growth and innovation, help to improve competitiveness and productivity and ensure protection for workers;

7. Is concerned about the practice of some Member States that seek to ‘export’ their own domestic regulation and impose it on the other Member States via EU law; considers

this practice not to be ‘pro-European’ but to be protectionism by another name, and considers that it does not meet the need for an adaptable and flexible framework suitable for the European single market;

8. Considers that the digital single market (DSM) strategy has not yet delivered the step change needed to tailor European regulation to the opportunities that a pro-innovation and pro-entrepreneurial approach to the digital economy can bring;

9. Regrets the lack of political leadership over the DSM strategy and the lack of overall coherence in the strategy’s many initiatives; regrets further that the co-legislators have often worked in ‘silos’ and have adopted legislation that conflicts or overlaps with other legislation; doubts that the legislation adopted will make the single market fit for the digital age and regrets that opportunities to modernise Union law, such as the introduction of e-labelling, are being missed;

10. Believes that the next Commission should review the outcomes of the DSM strategy and revisit the outdated separation of the ‘digital’ single market from the ‘offline’ single market, as digital solutions are an indispensable part of the modern economy;

11. Points out that the single market is increasingly coming under pressure from national rules that run counter to EU law and the objectives of the single market, especially rules at national level that impact on the free movement of goods and services (for example through gold-plating);

12. Urges the Commission to make better use of existing instruments to take action against national rules that challenge the single market; believes in this regard that the Commission should present a comprehensive regime of infringement proceedings within the first two years of the next Commission mandate, building on the information received from the proportionality assessments and other analyses it has carried out;

13. Considers that the conclusion of legislative work on the proposal on notifications from the 2017 Services Package would also support the Commission’s efforts to improve enforcement;

14. Stresses that it is important to ensure that legislation meets its purpose: citizens and businesses can only enjoy the many benefits of the single market if the rules that are jointly agreed are practical and enforceable;

15. Supports strongly the Commission’s invitation to the Council to dedicate an in-depth discussion at the level of heads of state or government to identifying common priorities and specific actions; considers that the involvement of the Member States from the outset is essential in order to ensure popular support for proposed Union policies;

16. Urges the next Commission to ambitiously plan single market actions and to present legislative proposals in a timely manner in order to give both co-legislators and national parliaments sufficient time for scrutiny, revision and adoption;

17. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.