

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2004/2224(INI)

20.2.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on the Implementation, consequences and impact of the internal market
legislation in force
(2004/2224(INI))

Draftsman: Eoin Ryan

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Is of the opinion that, in order to attain the Lisbon II objectives e.g. job creation and competitiveness, the EU needs to make itself more attractive to both investors and stakeholders; stresses the direct link between sound and well-targeted regulation and growth; believes that the impact of all proposals for legislation on competitiveness should be assessed, and therefore backs the current initiative of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission to seriously tackle legislative reform;
2. Recalls that the primary objective of internal market legislation, now that the euro zone has been put in place, is to allow the internal market to function without cross-border obstacles to the growth of industries and to realise substantial economies of scale which can also facilitate mergers and acquisitions; believes, therefore, that European regulation must be simple and straightforward; is convinced that boosting competition, through regulatory reform, is the stimulus that Europe needs to improve productivity;
3. Is of the opinion that the Financial Services Action Plan (FSAP) has been an appropriate mechanism for working towards the goal of creating a single market in financial services; considers that the FSAP has been a success in procedural terms and could lead to substantial savings, thereby releasing capital for financing the European economy; welcomes the evaluation of the financial services legislation which is currently underway; notes that, to date, implementation has been neither prompt nor consistent, many plans have yet to be implemented and work is required on enforcement systems; notes that in some instances Member States are 'goldplating' EU legislation and this must be closely monitored to ensure it is not imposing new cross-border obstacles or leading to accusations of an overbearing EU; believes that global competition is intensifying, which needs to be taken into account in regulatory impact assessments;
4. Supports DG MARKT's method of consultation with businesses through the European Business Test Panel, which facilitates decision making and streamlines transposition (with bilateral "Transposition Package meetings" and "Multilateral Experts Groups"); encourages impact assessments of those initiatives in order for them to be transferred to other DGs; stresses that those initiatives secure the participation of all relevant stakeholders; requests that alternatives to legislation according to the Interinstitutional Agreement on 'better law making' be seriously considered and that better use of competition policy be put into practice along with a review clause in order to make European legislation more flexible to change;
5. Stresses the need to be able to use financial products across borders; in that respect, requests that any remaining barriers, for example in the retail banking or insurance sectors, be removed; considers that there should be greater focus on ensuring that existing financial sector legislation is effectively implemented throughout the Member States in order to create a level playing field; although the Lamfalussy arrangements are working well, considers that further measures, such as greater consultation and

appropriate mechanisms for resolving disputes more quickly, need to be investigated to further the effectiveness of the legislative reform process; in that respect, calls for an effective fast-track arbitration/ombudsman redress mechanism to be established at EU level to promote the prompt resolution of disputes over internal market rules; reiterates the need to ensure the European Parliament has full call back rights in the context of the Lamfalussy process;

6. Considers in particular that national implementation in the areas of penalties must be broadly comparable across Member States; legislation that is intended to be a substitute should not be implemented as an addition; care must also be taken that committees of regulators accept that less regulation may be more favourable and need not increase over time.

PROCEDURE

Title	Implementation, consequences and impact of the internal market		
Procedure number	2004/2224(INI)		
Committee responsible	IMCO		
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ECON 29.9.2005		
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary			
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Eoin Ryan 5.9.2005		
Previous drafts(wo)man			
Discussed in committee	28.11.2005	24.1.2006	13.2.2006
Date adopted	20.2.2006		
Result of final vote	+: –: 0:	25 2 0	
Members present for the final vote	Zsolt László Becsey, Pervenche Berès, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, Ieke van den Burg, David Casa, Jonathan Evans, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Robert Goebbels, Gunnar Hökmark, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt, Sophia in 't Veld, Wolf Klinz, Guntars Krasts, Astrid Lulling, Cristobal Montoro Romero, John Purvis, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Dariusz Rosati, Peter Skinner, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Sahra Wagenknecht		
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Harald Ettl, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Thomas Mann, Corien Wortmann-Kool		
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote			
Comments (available in one language only)	.		