

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2005/2167(INI)

14.2.2006

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on a European Information Society for growth and employment
(2005/2167(INI))

Draftsman: Alain Lipietz

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls on Member States and the Commission, when evaluating the Member States' stability and convergence programmes, to rigorously examine the importance and the role played by information and communication technologies (ICT) in growth and employment and for the functioning of EMU;
2. Believes that the EU's economic future lies in a higher growth of labour productivity;
3. Calls for more public and private investment in R&D, including through public private partnerships, in order to reach the target of 3% of GDP, set by the Barcelona European Council of March 2002;
4. Recalls the EU's commitments to innovation and research contained in the Integrated Guidelines for Growth and Jobs (2005-2008), and calls for their consistent implementation in connection with the Lisbon reform agenda;
5. Reiterates the importance of the i2010 information society in fighting regional and social imbalances across EU25 as stressed in the Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013;
6. Notes that over half of the EU population does not benefit in full from ICT; insists that ICT also implies investment in human capital to foster creativity via higher budgets for education and culture; welcomes the Commission's initiative to promote digital literacy through education and various training programmes, thereby making ICT products and services more accessible;
7. Recalls that the i2010 objectives for the information society as well as the Lisbon Agenda goals require that such objectives will be adequately reflected in the 2007-2013 financial perspectives;
8. Draws attention to the EU's persistent and serious lack of entrepreneurship and risk-taking culture; calls for elimination of administrative burdens on SMEs and start-ups, together with financial relief in the start-up phase;
9. Urges national governments to implement i2010 initiatives and programmes in the reform of their public administration in order to provide better, more efficient and easily accessible services for their SMEs, as well as their citizens;
10. Calls on the EIB and the Commission to improve their coordination of research funding in order to achieve synergies between the bank's programmes, the 7th Research Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation (CIP) Programme;

11. Reiterates the importance for SMEs, start-ups and the ICT sector in general of transparent and liquid capital markets, which lower the cost of borrowing; particularly supports micro-loans and other forms of risk capital;
12. Believes in simpler national tax systems that create incentives to invest in ICT and R&D; in this regard, welcomes the Commission's proposals to establish a common consolidated corporate tax base.

PROCEDURE

Title	European Information Society for growth and employment	
Procedure number	2005/2167(INI)	
Committee responsible	ITRE	
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ECON 29.9.2005	
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary		
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Alain Lipietz 25.10.2005	
Previous drafts(wo)man		
Discussed in committee	23.1.2006	13.2.2006
Date adopted	13.2.2006	
Result of final vote	+: 18 –: 0 0: 3	
Members present for the final vote	Pervenche Berès, Pier Luigi Bersani, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, Elisa Ferreira, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Benoît Hamon, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt, Othmar Karas, Wolf Klinz, Christoph Konrad, Cristobal Montoro Romero, Joseph Muscat, John Purvis, Alexander Radwan, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Sahra Wagenknecht	
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Alain Lipietz	
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Holger Kraemer	
Comments (available in one language only)		