



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2010/2277(INI)

16.2.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on a Single Market for Enterprises and Growth
(2010/2277(INI))

Rapporteur: Diogo Feio

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:

- A. whereas a well functioning and integrated Single Market which aims to promote the free movement of services, including e-learning and e-commerce solutions, is key for businesses - especially SMEs - and consumers and consequently for EU growth, competitiveness and job creation in a globalised world, and is key for citizens in the EU as it contributes to providing improved access to basic products and services,
- B. whereas reduction of the administrative burden, use of e-administration and respect for the EU's Better Regulation strategy are crucial in order for business, notably SMEs as the main engine of EU growth, to reap the full benefits of the Single Market, contribute to job creation and allocate funds to research, development and innovation, while fully respecting social and environmental norms and laws as well as ensuring high levels of consumer protection and contributing to an appropriate distribution of wealth,
- C. whereas the EU 2020 strategy objectives and the Small Business Act should be fully integrated into, and underpin, all single market policies,
- D. whereas competition policy is an essential tool to enable the EU to have a dynamic, efficient and innovative internal market and to be competitive on the global stage,
 - 1. Calls on the Commission to reconnect with the spirit of Mario Monti's report, which advocated promoting liberalisation and competition as well as improving fiscal and social convergence;
 - 2. Emphasises the complementary nature of the various measures contained in the Monti report, the coherence of which is not fully reflected in the SMA;
 - 3. Underlines that the adoption of these measures is key to overcoming current obstacles at a national and European level;
 - 4. Welcomes the initiative of the Single Market Act, the balance between economic, social and governance objectives, and notably the aligning of the Small Business Act with the EU 2020 strategy;
 - 5. Calls on the Commission to pay particular attention to the needs of SMEs which are the main employment providers in the European Union, while fully respecting social and environmental norms and laws as well as high levels of consumer protection, by
 - (a) facilitating access to capital markets for SMEs to enable investment in research, development and innovation and stimulate European exports,
 - (b) simplifying SMEs' accounts reporting obligations and reducing administrative

burdens, and

- (c) taking specific account of SMEs' dependence on the big companies which subcontract to them and evaluating the case for any specific action to reflect the consequences of that dependence;
6. Underlines the importance of improving the European Union's economic governance in order to create the economic conditions for enterprises to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the single market allowing them to grow and become more competitive, and calls for this linkage to be made explicit in the Single Market Act;
 7. Emphasises the need for effective implementation and completion of the financial supervisory package to achieve a sustainable internal market; calls for an assessment by the Commission to ensure that such implementation is undertaken throughout the EU and a correlation table published in a yearly basis; to that end, considers that best practices should be promoted amongst national and EU supervisory entities;
 8. Calls on the Commission to include in its programme key financial services initiatives (e.g. the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) and increased legal certainty of securities holdings) which are highly relevant to the single market;
 9. Stresses that an EU competition policy based on the principles of open markets and a level playing field in all sectors is a cornerstone of a successful Single Market and a precondition for the creation of sustainable and knowledge-based jobs;
 10. Deplores the lack of concrete measures concerning effective application of competition rules, in particular regarding mergers control, and calls on the Commission to:
 - (a) integrate competition policy and tools into its Single Market strategy taking into account specific features of SMEs;
 - (b) improve assessment of the sectors where inherent competition deficiencies are observed, such as energy;
 - (c) evaluate the impact of state aid and structural measures on competition in the context of the financial crisis, and
 - (d) further evaluate, and where appropriate, simplify or revise, the regulation of state aids as compensation for services of general interest;
 11. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to work towards a European private company statute;
 12. Underlines the importance of removing fiscal barriers to cross-border activities, without prejudice to the provisions set out in the Lisbon Treaty as regards EU Member States' sovereignty in tax matters; stresses the need for better co-ordination of national tax policy by Member States with the aim of further decreasing tax obstacles and barriers in the internal market and avoiding double taxation and combating tax competition; calls for the

introduction of a common consolidated corporate tax base and a review of the proposal for a simplified taxation system for SMEs active in the single market in line with the principle of subsidiarity;

13. Welcomes a new VAT strategy which prioritises combating VAT fraud and aims to increase growth and reduce the administrative burden on businesses, as called for by the European Parliament;
14. Welcomes the review of the Energy Tax Directive, with a view to better reflecting climate change objectives, provided that the tax burden does not fall unduly on vulnerable consumers;
15. Welcomes the reference to project bonds and urges use of the EU budget to increase the credit granted by the EIB in partnership with the banking and private sectors, and the creation of a project bond scheme in order to finance European projects aimed at strengthening the sustainable recovery of growth and employment, including public services infrastructure projects in transport, energy and telecommunications;
16. Notes that giving an opinion on political priorities does not prejudge Parliament's views on specific measures which will be informed, among other things, by the impact assessment for each proposal, in line with Better Regulation principles and full respect for social and environmental norms and laws as well as high levels of consumer protection;
17. Calls on the Commission to pay close attention to the impact on the Single Market's internal cohesion of the growing economic divergence between the EU Member States.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	14.2.2011
Result of final vote	+: 34 -: 6 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Burkhard Balz, Sharon Bowles, Udo Bullmann, Pascal Canfin, Nikolaos Chountis, George Sabin Cutaş, Leonardo Domenici, Derk Jan Eppink, Diogo Feio, Elisa Ferreira, Vicky Ford, Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Sven Giegold, Sylvie Goulard, Liem Hoang Ngoc, Gunnar Hökmark, Wolf Klinz, Jürgen Klute, Philippe Lamberts, Werner Langen, Hans-Peter Martin, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, Ivari Padar, Alfredo Pallone, Anni Podimata, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Olle Schmidt, Peter Simon, Peter Skinner, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Ivo Strejček, Kay Swinburne, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Corien Wortmann-Kool
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sophie Auconie, Elena Băsescu, Arturs Krišjānis Kariņš, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Andreas Schwab, Catherine Stihler