



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2011/2085(INI)

13.9.2011

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on the Mutual Evaluation Process of the Services Directive
(2011/2085(INI))

Rapporteur: Frank Engel

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social 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 services account for around 75% of EU GDP and 70% of total employment in the EU, and whereas services covered by the Services Directive account for 45% of EU GDP and 43% of employment in the EU, intra-EU trade in services represents only 5% of GDP and only 8% of SMEs currently do business abroad,
1. Notes the results of the evaluation and welcomes the future plans outlined by the Commission; calls for the remaining regulatory barriers, such as the rules on reserved activities, insurance obligations, legal form and capital ownership requirements, to be tackled; calls on the Commission to concentrate its efforts on unjustified or disproportionate requirements which should be abolished in order to guarantee the smooth functioning of the Single Market;
 2. Given that in recent years services have been the source of all net job creation in the EU, considers that the full potential of the Single Market has not yet been realised and that the Services Directive is an important tool in further unlocking this potential for sustainable and socially inclusive growth and jobs;
 3. Stresses that, as a result of the crisis, the EU labour market could remain fragmented in the long term and that renewed political resolve and resolute action are required in order to further develop the European services sector, to enhance trade in services and to further promote the freedom to provide cross-border services;
 4. With a view to bringing an effective and properly functioning Single Market in the field of services into being, calls on the Commission to pay careful attention to the regular checks and evaluations of the work of the Points of Single Contact in Member States, which play a key role in making necessary information available to service-providers in an up-to-date and user-friendly manner;
 5. Notes that certain services have been excluded from the scope of the Services Directive because of their specific nature and that there may be a need to adopt sectoral EU legislation, whilst ensuring that the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity are observed;
 6. With a view to protecting EU citizens and workers against service-providers whose actions are seriously prejudicial to their health and safety or seriously damaging to their environment, stresses the potential need for enhanced mutual assistance and information exchange among Member States about their checks, inspections and investigations concerning service-providers, established on their territories, who exercise their activities in an unlawful manner;
 7. Recalls that the Single Market Act includes a pledge to bring forward, in 2011, a set of measures which should improve the functioning of the Single Market for services;

welcomes the measures proposed under the Single Market Act which address the labour conditions of workers delivering services in the EU, especially as regards posted workers; stresses the need to base the European Single Market on sound economic and social rules, so as to create a level playing field;

8. Believes that, for the purposes of implementing the EU 2020 Strategy and the Single Market Act, there is a need, in addition to the Services Directive, to tackle complementary issues relating to the mobility of service-providers and workers; calls, therefore, on the Commission, as part of its 'performance check' of the Single Market for services, to take account of EU instruments beyond the Services Directive, with particular reference to the recognition of professional qualifications, the portability of pension rights, and clarification of the interpretation and implementation of the rules on the posting of workers and certain social security and labour law provisions while at all times protecting workers' pension rights and entitlements;
9. Emphasises that small and medium-sized service providers, who are key drivers for employment and social inclusion, are those worst affected by unjustified or disproportionate requirements; notes the important role of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as SOLVIT in ensuring that service providers, and in particular SMEs, can fully exploit their Single Market rights; welcomes the Commission's announcement that it will assess the effectiveness of these tools and report on the need for further specific initiatives.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	12.9.2011
Result of final vote	+: 38 -: 3 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Mara Bizzotto, Philippe Boulland, Milan Cabrnach, David Casa, Alejandro Cercas, Sergio Gaetano Cofferati, Tadeusz Cymański, Frédéric Daerden, Proinsias De Rossa, Sari Essayah, Richard Falbr, Ilda Figueiredo, Thomas Händel, Marian Harkin, Liisa Jaakonsaari, Danuta Jazłowiecka, Martin Kastler, Olle Ludvigsson, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Elisabeth Morin-Chartier, Siiri Oviir, Rovana Plumb, Konstantinos Poupakis, Sylvana Rapti, Licia Ronzulli, Elisabeth Schroedter, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Jutta Steinruck, Traian Ungureanu
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Georges Bach, Raffaele Baldassarre, Jürgen Creutzmann, Kinga Göncz, Evelyn Regner, Csaba Sógor, Cecilia Wikström
Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote	Emma McClarkin