DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on towards a sustainable single market for business and consumers (2020/2021(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls on the Commission to include, in its economic recovery roadmap and financial support schemes, EU guidelines for the Member States on how to design their investment plans so that they are consistent with the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement; stresses that such guidelines would enable the EU to save and transform its economy (i.e. take the EU out of the crisis and accelerate the transition towards climate neutrality);

2. Points out that both sustainable production and consumption should be promoted; considers in this regard that resource efficiency should be improved by increasing the circularity of value chains, reducing the consumption of resources, and cutting down on waste generation; stresses that a new economy comprising circular services should be developed;

3. Considers that it is crucial to ensure that the ‘sustainable choice’ will be the default choice – which is attractive, accessible and sustainable – for all consumers in the EU as soon as possible; calls on the Commission to encourage the development, production and marketing of products that are suitable for multiple use, technically durable and easily repairable and, after having become waste and having been prepared for reuse or recycling, suitable to be made available or placed on the market in order to facilitate the proper implementation of the waste hierarchy; calls on the Commission to support and develop economic tools that give an economic advantage to the ‘sustainable choice’;

4. Emphasises that consumers should be able to fully participate in the ecological transition; calls on the Commission to develop legislative proposals on the tools needed to achieve this goal, including improved product information through labelling, green claims, extended legal guarantees and definitions, as well as measures against planned obsolescence and greenwashing; calls on the Commission to guarantee the right for people in the EU to have their goods repaired; highlights that such tools must be based on sound environmental criteria, which enable consumers to assess accurately the environmental impact of products on the basis of their life cycle, their environmental footprint, their lifespan and their quality;

5. Stresses the role of Green Public Procurement (GPP) to accelerate the shift towards a more sustainable and circular economy, and the importance of promoting the uptake of GPP during the EU’s economic recovery; recalls the commitments of the Commission to propose further legislation on GPP.