



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

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**2009/2227(INI)**

18.3.2010

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Community innovation policy in a changing world  
(2009/2227(INI))

Rapporteur: Mitro Repo

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection 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. Underlines that strengthening entrepreneurs as the drivers of innovation in Europe is a necessary prerequisite for the effective functioning of a competitive internal market based on the elimination of trade barriers and a high level of consumer protection and social cohesion;
2. Regrets, in this connection, the lack of a true internal market for innovations in the EU, and calls on the Commission and the Member States to coordinate their efforts in this area, notably where prompt agreement on a Community patent and a single patent court system are concerned, and stresses the importance of standardisation for the development of innovative products;
3. Stresses the importance of a broad-based innovation policy, requiring investment in people and skills, which takes into account research-based innovations as well as demand-driven innovation policy approaches; emphasises that EU innovation policy should bolster innovation which meets user and societal needs, as well as new service innovations;
4. Emphasises the strategic importance of key enabling technologies for innovation in relation to processes, goods and services and the transition to a knowledge-based, low-carbon economy; endorses the guidelines for the development of an industrial policy framework for key enabling technologies put forward by the Commission in its communication COM(2009)0512, and joins the Commission in calling on the Member States to reach agreement on the importance of using key enabling technologies in the EU;
5. Underlines that innovation policy should be coordinated with other EU and national policies (including industrial, environmental and consumer policy), bearing in mind that the approaches identified should be flexible enough to be adapted to different national and regional circumstances;
6. Calls on the Commission to develop new innovations indicators, including non-technological aspects, which are better suited for increasingly knowledge-based service economies;
7. Calls on the Member States to use public procurement, in addition to supply-side measures, to drive demand for innovative goods and services whilst improving the quality of public services; emphasises that contracting authorities should include innovation as one of the goals of their procurement programmes;
8. Stresses that innovation is first and foremost a novelty that addresses consumers' and market needs; asks the Commission, therefore, to ensure better recognition of the primacy

of consumers' demands as a driving force for innovation;

9. Calls on the Member States to increase their R&D funding in order to achieve the goal set in Barcelona in 2002 of spending 3% of GDP on R&D by 2010; emphasises the importance of research and innovation funding in times of economic crisis, as this will enhance job creation in the long run;
10. Regrets that efforts to simplify EU research and innovation instruments have not been successful, and that procedures are still far too complex and time-consuming, which particularly hampers participation by SMEs in these programmes;
11. Stresses the need for enhanced coordination of the work of the Commissioners involved in innovation policy and related fields, and urges that this should lead to less fragmented EU instruments in the field of innovation policy;

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	17.3.2010
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 29 -: 1 0: 2
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Lara Comi, António Fernando Correia De Campos, Jürgen Creutzmann, Christian Engström, Evelyne Gebhardt, Louis Grech, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Philippe Juvin, Sandra Kalniete, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Kurt Lechner, Toine Manders, Gianni Pittella, Mitro Repo, Robert Rochefort, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Laurence J.A.J. Stassen, Catherine Stihler, Róza Gräfin Von Thun Und Hohenstein, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Bernadette Vergnaud
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Regina Bastos, Cornelis de Jong, Othmar Karas, Sylvana Rapti, Wim van de Camp