



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2010/2001(BUD)

2.9.2010

OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Budgets

on Parliament's position on the 2011 Draft Budget as modified by the Council -
All sections
(2010/2001(BUD))

Rapporteur: Heide Rühle

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the responsibility of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection in the budget procedure covers budget lines in titles 2 (Enterprise), 12 (Internal market), 14 (Taxation and customs union) and 17 (Health and consumer protection);
2. Points out the importance of the budgetary allocation in chapter 02 03 of the Commission's draft budget, believing that a better functioning internal market can be achieved by improvements in the fields of notification and certification; is furthermore of the opinion that the budgetary allocation in the fields of standardisation and approximation of legislation is justified, as these measures will facilitate the operation and competitiveness of enterprises, while providing European consumers with safer products and services;
3. Welcomes the slight increase for budget line 12 02 01 in the Commission's draft budget, which it deems necessary due to the benefits of the single market for the EU economy as a whole, in particular in times of economic downturn; calls on the Commission, therefore, to bring forward proposals on how to complete the single market based on sound market knowledge, economic analysis and the choice of appropriate instruments; emphasises in this context the importance of the services sector for the European economy and therefore considers the implementation of the Services Directive¹ a key priority; asks the Commission in addition to cooperate closely with the Member States and to develop an administrative culture of simpler regulation and effective problem solving; underlines the importance of training activities to assist officials and judges in correctly transposing, applying and enforcing single market rules;
4. Deplores the non-allocation of money to budget line 12 02 02; considers the SOLVIT network an effective free-of-charge out-of-court dispute settlement mechanism which should be supported by the Commission's training and promotion activities in all Member States; asks the Member States to increase the human and financial resources allocated to this network; furthermore, supports the concept of Single Market Assistance Services through the creation of a single-entry webpage providing information and advice;
5. Asks for the financing of a pilot project entitled 'Single Market Forum', an annual event which should take place once a year in the Member State holding the Council Presidency bringing together representatives of citizens, businesses and consumer organisations as well as representatives of the Member States and the EU institutions in order to establish a clear commitment to transposition, application and enforcement of single market legislation; considers that the aim of this event should be to tackle incorrect transposition, misapplication and lack of enforcement of single market legislation by improving coordination and better governance of the single market; considers that this event should

¹ Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market (OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36).

become an important platform for exchanging best practices between stakeholders and for informing citizens of their rights in the single market; moreover, calls for the "top 20" concerns, challenges and opportunities for citizens and businesses, identified by the Commission, to be taken into consideration at this event; deems the creation of a working group necessary, to be composed of Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the Commission and the Council Presidency in office at the event, which should work out the details of the event;

6. Considers the slight increase in the amount allocated to budget line 14 04 02 to the Customs 2013 Programme to be justified and appropriate in order to achieve the goals in this policy area, such as reinforcing security and protection of the external borders, supporting the fight against illicit trafficking and fraud and improving the efficiency of customs systems; supports the achievement of the Programme's goals by improving coordination and cooperation between Member States, promoting the exchange of best practices and know-how and monitoring the correct application of Union legislation; underlines the importance of training programmes for national customs officers;
7. Deems the amount allocated to budget line 17 02 02 in the field of consumer policy to be justified and appropriate in order to achieve an internal market with safe products and services, as well as equal rights for all consumers; emphasises the importance of close cooperation between the Union, Member States and third countries, including the United States, China and India on more effective enforcement mechanisms in order to attain greater consumer confidence; urges the Commission to develop a knowledge base and training programmes in the area of market surveillance; furthermore considers common efforts in the area of consumer education, in particular regarding financial literacy, a priority; calls also on the Commission to support the functioning of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network in order to enable a more efficient use of the CPC cooperation mechanisms by the enforcement authorities in the field of consumer protection in the Member States; recalls that the European Consumer Centres Network needs appropriate funding in order to promote consumer confidence in the single market; points out the important role of consumer organisations for awareness-raising in the Union and advocates the financing of their projects; accordingly, calls for a prolongation of the TRACE Programme which empowers consumer organisations through training activities to build up strong and efficient organisations and networks;
8. Underlines the importance of monitoring consumer markets through the consolidation of a scoreboard and related market studies based on the collection of data on consumer behaviour and the functioning of those markets; calls therefore for a further preparatory action entitled 'Monitoring measures in the field of consumer policy', which would allow for the continuation of existing surveys and studies and the financing of further market studies.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	2.9.2010
Result of final vote	+: 26 -: 0 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Pablo Arias Echeverría, Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Lara Comi, António Fernando Correia De Campos, Jürgen Creutzmann, Evelyne Gebhardt, Louis Grech, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Eija-Riitta Korhola, Hans-Peter Mayer, Gianni Pittella, Mitro Repo, Robert Rochefort, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Matteo Salvini, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Laurence J.A.J. Stassen, Catherine Stihler, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Bernadette Vergnaud, Barbara Weiler
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Sylvana Rapti, Catherine Soullie, Rafał Trzaskowski, Wim van de Camp