



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

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**2013/2134(INI)**

5.9.2013

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation  
of 2013 priorities  
(2013/2134(INI))

Rapporteur: Andreas Schwab

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

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

- having regard to its resolution of 7 February 2013 with recommendations to the Commission on the governance of the Single Market<sup>1</sup>,
  - having regard to the first Commission report of 28 November 2012 on ‘State of the Single Market Integration 2013 – Contribution to the Annual Growth Survey 2013’ (COM(2012)0752),
  - having regard to the Commission communication of 8 June 2012 entitled ‘Better Governance for the Single Market’ (COM(2012)0259),
1. Recalls that the Single Market is a key driver for growth and jobs and has an indispensable role to play in meeting the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; notes, however, that this potential remains untapped in many respects;
  2. Considers that the improvement of the economic governance framework should be based on a set of interconnected and mutually consistent policies that foster growth and employment, and that the full development of the internal market is a prerequisite for this to happen;
  3. Recalls that the economic potential of the services sector remains largely untapped; points out that a full and proper implementation of the Services Directive could trigger the growth potential of the EU’s GDP of 0.8-2.6 % and, together with the completion of the digital single market, could generate economic benefits equivalent to EUR 4 200 annually per European household;
  4. Welcomes the fact that, in the European Semester 2013, the Annual Growth Survey has for the first time been underpinned by a report on the state of the Single Market integration;
  5. Believes that, in the context of the European Semester, the Single Market should be integrated with other horizontal policy areas;
  6. Regrets, however, that despite the strong evidence for the importance of the Single Market in overcoming the crisis, the 2013 country-specific recommendations do not to a sufficient extent address the growth, consumer confidence and jobs potential of the proper implementation and enforcement of the Single Market rules;
  7. Supports the emphasis in this year’s country-specific recommendations on the importance of removing unjustified restrictions and barriers to entry in the services sectors; urges the Member States concerned to give those recommendations their utmost consideration and to remove, with urgent priority, these obstacles to the growth of the single market;

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0054.

8. Calls on the Commission to make Single Market governance a priority in its next Annual Growth Survey and in the European Semester 2014, and, in the next country-specific recommendations, to take full account of the key growth areas – identified as the services sector, the energy sector, the transport sector and the digital single market – and of the measures included in the Single Market Act I and II;
9. Regrets that the lack of national and European investment impedes the achievement of the priority goals and objectives in the key areas of energy, transport and digital market indicated in the report on the ‘State of the Single Market Integration 2013 – Contribution to the Annual Growth Survey 2013’;
10. Urges, in the meantime, the Member States and the Commission to step up their efforts to enforce Single Market legislation and to monitor this enforcement, inter alia through regular EU sweeps;
11. Reiterates its call on the Commission to strengthen single market governance by establishing, as a specific pillar of the European Semester, an annual Single Market governance cycle that includes the Internal Market Scoreboard, an annual report on the integration of the Single Market as part of the Annual Growth Survey, European Council guidance to Member States, national action plans aimed at implementing the Single Market guidelines, and dedicated country-specific recommendations;
12. Notes the lack of involvement of national parliaments in the debate on Single Market aspects of the European Semester 2013; stresses that the engagement of the stakeholders in the necessary reforms is crucial to their delivery and success, and calls on the national parliaments to engage actively in a dialogue with the European Parliament, and with their respective governments, to carry out their better regulation commitments, such as a Single Market test, and to activate untapped growth and employment potential in a better way;
13. Underlines the importance of a stronger and earlier involvement of the social partners, and of all stakeholders, in designing, adopting, implementing and monitoring the measures needed to boost growth and citizens’ rights in the Single Market.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	5.9.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 25 -: 3 0: 1
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Claudette Abela Baldacchino, Adam Bielan, Preslav Borissov, Birgit Collin-Langen, Lara Comi, Cornelis de Jong, Małgorzata Handzlik, Malcolm Harbour, Philippe Juvin, Hans-Peter Mayer, Franz Obermayr, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Phil Prendergast, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Andreas Schwab, Catherine Stihler, Emilie Turunen, Barbara Weiler
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Ildikó Gáll-Pelcz, Liem Hoang Ngoc, María Irigoyen Pérez, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Olle Schmidt, Olga Sehnalová, Marc Tarabella, Wim van de Camp, Patricia van der Kammen
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Liisa Jaakonsaari