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*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*  
*The Chair*

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23.2.2021

Mr Johan Van Overtveldt  
Chair  
Committee on Budgets  
BRUSSELS

Subject: Opinion on Guidelines for the 2022 Budget - Section III (2020/2265)BUI))

Dear Chair,

Under the procedure referred to above, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection has decided to submit an opinion to your Committee in the form of a letter.

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection considered the matter at its meeting of 22 of February 2021. At that meeting, it decided to call on the Committee on Budget, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the suggestions in annex to this letter into its motion for a resolution<sup>1</sup>.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Cavazzini  
Chairwoman

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<sup>1</sup> The following were present for the final vote: Eugen Jurzyca (Rapporteur for the Opinion), Anna Cavazzini (Chair), Andrus Ansip (Vice-Chair), Maria Grapini (Vice-Chair), Alessandra Basso, Brando Benifei, Adam Bielan, Biljana Borzan, Vlad-Marius Botoș, Markus Buchheit, Marco Campomenosi, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Dita Charanzová, Deirdre Clune, David Cormand, Carlo Fidanza, Evelyne Gebhardt, Alexandra Geese, Sandro Gozi, Svenja Hahn, Krzysztof Hetman, Virginie Joron, Arba Kokalari, Marcel Kolaja, Kateřina Konečná, Andrey Kovatchev, Jean-Lin Lacapelle, Adriana Maldonado López, Morten Løkkegaard, Antonius Manders, Beata Mazurek, Sven Mikser, Leszek Miller, Dan-Ștefan Motreanu, Anne-Sophie Pelletier, Tsvetelina Penkova, Miroslav Radačovský, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Tomislav Sokol, Kim Van Sparrentak, Barbara Thaler, Edina Tóth, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Marco Zullo.

Annex: Suggestions

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Budget, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes that the COVID-19 crisis has hindered the free movement of persons, goods and services in the EU, which is one of the Union's most valuable achievements; calls for adequate and effective initiatives to restore, further deepen and complete the single market while supporting the transition towards a digital and sustainable economy, and to address unjustified barriers to free trade;
2. Notes in particular the great potential of the free movement of services, which is still underdeveloped, and calls for initiatives and actions to boost cross-border trade in services, reduce unjustified administrative burdens for companies, and ensure adequate implementation and enforcement of existing legislation such as the Services Directive; highlights the importance of services facilitating a measurable reduction in the EU's environmental footprint;
3. Believes that additional efforts are needed to support Member States in the digitalisation of the public sector, especially for procedures that affect businesses and consumers, enabling them to conduct administrative procedures online;
4. Stresses the importance of the Single Market Programme, which aims to improve the functioning of the single market, support the competitiveness of companies, including SMEs, and empower consumers; recalls the need to create synergies between the Single Market Programme and the Next Generation EU recovery fund;
5. Notes that the adoption of best practices in public procurement for projects funded by the EU could help to avoid frequent errors and ensure proper implementation of investments;
6. Highlights the need for greater cooperation between EU-level market surveillance authorities to ensure that products sold both online and offline are safe, and that consumer trust is ensured, in particular for cross-border purchases;
7. Underlines that the effective simplification of customs procedures and proper enforcement of customs systems are essential for combating fraud and transnational crime, driving competition and protecting consumers; reiterates the importance of an adequate and effective level of commitment appropriations to allow the modernisation of the customs union in support of the implementation of the Union Customs Code and development of electronic and more automated customs systems in the interest of greater efficiency for EU companies and streamlined protection of consumers; calls for this modernisation to take account of the changes related to the EU-UK Agreement; calls for full compliance with the recommendations of the Court of Auditors on a more effective budget, consumer welfare and protection, and better value for businesses;
8. Underlines the importance of accountability and transparency for bodies that receive EU

funding; reiterates that effective spending and proper evaluation creates savings that could finance further activities;

9. Stresses the need for all budgetary programmes to be subject to ongoing cost-benefit analyses to ensure the limited Union budget is spent as effectively as possible, and that funding can be used for the most high-quality projects with a maximum effect and whose results match intended objectives, including the desired contribution to sustainability; points out that EU funding should be accompanied by measurable result indicators, rather than simple output measurements, which would allow comparability and efficiency ranking of individual EU programmes.