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Committee on International Trade

2012/2114(INI)

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AMENDMENTS

1 - 74

Draft report
Jan Zahradil
(PE492.903v01-00)

Financing EU SMEs' trade and investment: facilitated access to credit in
support of internationalisation
(2012/2114(INI))

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EN

United in diversity

EN

Amendment 1
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Citation 5 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

– having regard to the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing rules on the access of third country goods and services to the European Union's internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of European Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries (2012/0060 (COD)),

Or. fr

Amendment 2
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital D

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

D. whereas **the Commission estimates that 99 % of all enterprises in the EU** are small **and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)**; these number 23 million and form the backbone of the Union's economy, providing two-thirds of private-sector jobs;

D. whereas **92% of all European small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are micro-firms employing 1 to 9 employees, 6.7% are small firms employing 10 to 49 employees and 1.1% are medium-sized firms employing 50 to 249 employees**; these number 23 million and form the backbone of the Union's economy, providing two-thirds of private-sector jobs;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital E

Motion for a resolution

E. whereas SMEs, including microenterprises (MSMEs), are diverse in nature and have different needs stemming from the specific nature of the industrial sector they operate in; whereas they face disparate challenges across their respective business cycles;

Amendment

E. whereas SMEs, including microenterprises (MSMEs), are diverse in nature and have different needs stemming from the specific nature of the industrial *or services* sector they operate in, *the Member State or even region they operate from, their size, their business model, entrepreneurial culture and business environment; whether it be internationally or within the single market*, whereas they face disparate challenges across their respective business cycles;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Recital F

Motion for a resolution

F. whereas lack of finance, *alongside weak entrepreneurial spirit (only 45 % of EU citizens wish to be self-employed compared to, for example, 55 % in the US)*, remains one of the main challenges to EU *enterprises' competitiveness and entrepreneurship, and persistent regulatory fragmentation and red tape continue to limit* SMEs' capacity to adapt to an energy- and resource-efficient economy and expand to markets beyond their home country, both within the single market and worldwide;

Amendment

F. whereas lack of finance remains one of the main challenges to EU *small and micro sized enterprises' which limits* SMEs' capacity to adapt to an energy- and resource-efficient economy and expand to markets beyond their home country, both within the single market and worldwide;

Amendment 5
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital F

Motion for a resolution

F. whereas lack of finance, ***alongside weak entrepreneurial spirit (only 45 % of EU citizens wish to be self-employed compared to, for example, 55 % in the US)***, remains one of the main challenges to EU enterprises' competitiveness and entrepreneurship, and persistent regulatory fragmentation and red tape continue to limit SMEs' capacity to adapt to an energy- and resource-efficient economy and expand to markets beyond their home country, both within the single market and worldwide;

Amendment

F. whereas lack of finance remains one of the main challenges to EU enterprises' competitiveness and entrepreneurship, and persistent regulatory fragmentation and red tape continue to limit SMEs' capacity to adapt to an energy- and resource-efficient economy and expand to markets beyond their home country, both within the single market and worldwide;

Amendment 6
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital F a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Fa. whereas a considerable number of European SMEs are engaged in international export activities (25% of total) yet only half of them are involved in export beyond internal market (13% of total), and only 4% of internationally inactive SMEs have concrete plans to start up international activities in the foreseeable future; whereas certain SMEs are incapable of internationalization due

to their business profiles and size;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital F b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Fb. whereas only 10% of micro-sized firms utilize the 300+ public support programs that are already available, and regarding to the large amount of support programs, SMEs find it difficult to identify and make use of the assistance that is actually available.

Or. en

Amendment 8
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital F c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Fc. whereas in the last two years consistently almost a third of SMEs which applied for a bank loan did not get any credit or got less than they applied for; and whereas the highest rejection rate was among the micro enterprises;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital F d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Fd. whereas the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) stresses to have enabled financial institutions to provide €30 billion of new finance for more than 315,000 SMEs in the period of 2007-2013; and whereas the European Investment Bank (EIB) provided around €40 billion of lending for SMEs, which benefitted more than 210,000 SMEs in 2008-2011;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital G

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

G. whereas the Commission's proposed new Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) **would** run from 2014 to 2020, with a planned budget of €2.5 billion;

G. whereas the Commission's proposed new Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) **will provide enterprises and SMEs a Loan Guarantee Facility, offering guarantees for debt financing via loans, subordinated and participating loans, or leasing, to reduce the particular difficulties SMEs face in accessing finance for their growth; will offer securitisation of SME debt finance portfolios, aimed at mobilising additional debt financing for SMEs; and will** run from 2014 to 2020, with a planned budget of €2.5 billion;

Or. en

Amendment 11

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution

Recital G a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ga. whereas the experience gained by Member States from policies supporting the internationalisation of SMEs and microenterprises, plus that of civil society institutions (chambers of commerce, employers' associations, etc.), constitutes a formidable pool of lessons learned with a view to designing efficient and successful new policies in this field;

Or. es

Amendment 12

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution

Recital G b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Gb. whereas any SME support policy undertaken at European level should be subsidiary, supplementary and complementary to the existing policy, provide European added value, avoid duplication and overlap with existing national, regional and local programmes and optimise planning and operational coordination;

Or. es

Amendment 13

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Recital H

Motion for a resolution

H. whereas the Commission's Trade and Investment Barriers reports list examples of how the EU's market access to different countries in the world, including industrialised economies/major emerging economies/WTO members, is being constrained more by various non-tariff barriers (NTBs) than by trade tariffs, the latter tending to be waived substantially as globalisation progresses;

Amendment

H. whereas the Commission's Trade and Investment Barriers reports list examples of how the EU's market access to different countries in the world, including industrialised economies/major emerging economies/WTO members, is being constrained more by various non-tariff barriers (NTBs) than by trade tariffs, the latter tending to be waived substantially as globalisation progresses; ***whereas in general NTBs result from the democratic discourse and culture in a respective country and any changing of them must be subject to democratic legislative procedures;***

Or. en

Amendment 14
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Recital H a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment 15
Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl

Motion for a resolution
Recital I

Motion for a resolution

I. whereas the EU needs to ***actively defend***

Amendment

Ha. whereas 44% of SMEs reported a lack of adequate information as an important barrier to internationalization;

Or. en

Amendment

I. whereas the EU, ***whenever necessary,***

its industries, including SMEs, *whenever necessary*, against violations of agreed rules, WTO standards and principles by its trading partners, *using all available means, including multilateral and bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms and WTO-compatible trade defence instruments (TDIs)*;

needs to *support* its industries, including SMEs, against violations of agreed rules, WTO standards and principles by its trading partners;

Or. en

Amendment 16 **Helmut Scholz**

Motion for a resolution **Recital I**

Motion for a resolution

I. whereas the EU needs to actively defend its industries, including SMEs, whenever necessary, against violations of agreed rules, WTO standards and principles by its trading partners, using *all available means, including* multilateral and bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms and WTO-compatible trade defence instruments (TDIs);

Amendment

I. whereas the EU needs to actively defend its industries, including SMEs, whenever necessary, against violations of agreed rules, WTO standards and principles by its trading partners; *whereas* using multilateral and bilateral dispute settlement mechanisms and *in particular* WTO-compatible trade defence instruments (TDIs) *should be a measure of last resort*;

Or. en

Amendment 17 **Marielle de Sarnez**

Motion for a resolution **Recital I a (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Ia. whereas European SMEs have been particularly affected by the worldwide economic and financial crisis and their internationalisation beyond the single market is a means of expanding abroad;

Amendment

Amendment 18
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Recital I b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ib. whereas only 13% of European SMEs operate on markets outside the EU;

Amendment 19
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Recital I c (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ic. whereas the reluctance of European SMEs to develop their international activities is mainly due to the lack of analysis or pre-analysis of their export opportunities;

Amendment 20
María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Daniel Caspary, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution
Recital I a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ia. Whereas legal insecurity on investment is a key disincentive factor for

SMEs when it comes to internationalization, being absolutely necessary to have a legal framework with our trade partners in order to guarantee that legal security, the EU must defend the interests of the European companies, especially SMEs, to violations of legal security of investments in non-EU countries.

Or. en

Amendment 21
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Recital I a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

Ia. whereas the most recent economic data from the BRICs countries indicate a slowdown in the growth of their economies;

Or. en

Amendment 22
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation, including easier access to capital and regularly updated information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation ***and in particular their further integration into the EU common market***, including easier access to capital and regularly updated

TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies and safeguarding lawful production in the EU and EU businesses' market share in third countries;

information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies and safeguarding lawful production in the EU and EU businesses' market share in third countries;

Or. en

Amendment 23

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation, including easier access to capital and regularly updated information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies ***and safeguarding lawful production in the EU and EU businesses' market share in third countries;***

Amendment

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation, including easier access to capital and regularly updated information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies.

Or. en

Amendment 24

Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 1

Motion for a resolution

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation, including easier access to capital and regularly updated information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies and safeguarding lawful production in the EU and EU businesses' market share in third countries;

Amendment

1. Urges the Commission, and where appropriate the Member States, to foster the participation of SMEs, and where relevant microenterprises, in the global markets by implementing appropriate measures for their internationalisation, including easier access to capital and regularly updated information on business opportunities abroad, as well as efficient TDIs aimed at ensuring their rightful protection against unfair dumping and subsidies and safeguarding lawful production in the EU and EU businesses' market share in third countries; ***while ensuring that human, labour and social rights and the environment are protected in third countries;***

Or. en

Amendment 25
Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

1a. Considers that the effective protection of SMEs against unfair trading practices by EU partner states is just as important as helping SMEs wishing to internationalise; considers internationalisation and protection as two sides of the same coin of the globalisation process;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1a. Calls on the Commission to apply the principle of reciprocity to the EU's common trade policy with its main trading partners so as to promote access by European SMEs to the public procurement markets of third countries;

Or. fr

Amendment 27
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1a. Notes that SMEs are facing difficulties primarily as a result of the decline in domestic demand due to the economic crisis and exacerbated by the implementation of austerity policies

Or. en

Amendment 28
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

1b. Notes that the majority of SMEs in the EU are dependent on domestic markets, while recognising the potential for some

SMEs to internationalise, asserts that internationalisation is not a means to end the crisis being faced by SMEs, considers the ending of austerity policies and the redevelopment of the economy through public investment programmes as a more effective assistance for the majority of SMEs;

Or. en

Amendment 29

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2

Motion for a resolution

2. Stresses the need to improve enterprise-level data collection in order to raise awareness of the needs of MSMEs, share best practice, and provide them with better targeted support at both national and EU level; calls also for regular cost-benefit analyses to assess the effectiveness of such support, with a focus on increasing MSMEs' innovativeness and competitiveness globally;

Amendment

2. Stresses the need to improve enterprise-level data collection in order to raise awareness of the needs of MSMEs, share best practice, and provide them with better targeted support at both national and EU level; calls also for regular cost-benefit analyses to assess the effectiveness of such support, with a focus on increasing MSMEs' innovativeness and competitiveness globally, ***but also assessing effectiveness of SMEs in the single market;***

Or. en

Amendment 30

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2a. Stresses the need of a mapping exercise first to identify existing and

missing support programs on national and EU level in order to avoid overlaps or gaps, incorporating existing service providers and support strategies in cooperation with national agencies; encourages member states' authorities to create similar single online databases of national and regional sources of finance;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

2b. Stresses the need to evaluate the available market for growing internationalisation and further promote SME development within the internal market, and consider development of SMEs within the internal market as equally important to the development of SMEs abroad;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3. Considers it essential for the EU's **competitiveness and** growth to create a network, to be part of a digital platform, bringing together national SME helpdesks, chambers of commerce, Export Credit Agencies (ECAs), business associations

3. Considers it essential for the EU's growth to create a network, to be part of a digital platform, bringing together national SME helpdesks, chambers of commerce, Export Credit Agencies (ECAs), business associations and the Commission, in order

and the Commission, in order to provide enterprises in the EU, especially exporters and importers, with precise, timely and reader-friendly information on a one-stop-shop basis, so that they can fully benefit from the Union's new common commercial policy;

to provide enterprises in the EU, especially exporters and importers, with precise, timely and reader-friendly information on a one-stop-shop basis, so that they can fully benefit from the Union's new common commercial policy;

Or. en

Amendment 33

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 3

Motion for a resolution

3. Considers it essential for the EU's competitiveness and growth to create a network, to be part of a digital platform, bringing together national SME helpdesks, chambers of commerce, ***Export Credit Agencies (ECAs)***, business associations and the Commission, in order to provide enterprises in the EU, especially exporters and importers, with precise, timely and reader-friendly information on a one-stop-shop basis, so that they can fully benefit from the Union's new common commercial policy;

Amendment

3. Considers it essential for the EU's competitiveness and growth to create a network, to be part of a digital platform, bringing together national SME helpdesks, chambers of commerce, business associations and the Commission, in order to provide enterprises in the EU, especially exporters and importers, with precise, timely and reader-friendly information on a one-stop-shop basis, so that they can fully benefit from the Union's new common commercial policy;

Or. en

Amendment 34 Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution Paragraph 3 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

3a. Points out that SMEs are particularly

vulnerable to price fluctuations, like for example in the food processing sector, and calls on the Commission to work actively against financial speculation on food and raw materials;

Or. en

Amendment 35

Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, *especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;*

Amendment

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs; *considers that start-up SMEs within the single market that are in need of further investment should be given equal opportunities to obtain funding when it would have a similar effect of bolstering the EU economy as would funding SMEs for growth through internationalization;*

Or. en

Amendment 36

Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; ***stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people***; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Amendment

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs ***by allowing European employees to invest their savings in a common SME investment fund***, by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Or. fr

Amendment 37

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Daniel Caspary, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of ***export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs***, and also to earmark

Amendment

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of ***officially supported export credits***, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special

sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Or. en

Amendment 38
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Amendment

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, ***in doing so taking measures to ensure ECAs are only provided for projects that comply with environmental and labour standards*** and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and

for SMEs in need of initial investment
should not be overlooked;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Francesca Balzani

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4

Motion for a resolution

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Amendment

4. Stresses that recurrent difficulties in accessing capital are one of the key reasons preventing SMEs' internationalisation; calls on the national governments to support SMEs by means of export insurance and making credit available to them from Member States' ECAs, ***without distorting intra-EU competition***, and also to earmark sufficient funding for SMEs (e.g. special loans, cofinancing and venture capital), so as to help overcome disinvestment and deleveraging by banks; stresses that such funding should be provided to SMEs that are already exporting and which can present a viable business plan for improving or consolidating their existing market share and creating jobs, especially for young people; considers that support for start-ups offering innovative goods and services and for SMEs in need of initial investment should not be overlooked;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

4a. Notes that despite the widespread nationalisation of the banking sector in many EU countries as well as the provision of capital to banks by the state, the banking sector is still being run as profit maximising bodies, in the narrow interests of shareholders and not in the interests of SMEs, homeowners or consumers that require credit; calls for the banking sector to be genuinely brought into democratic and public ownership so they will supply credit to those that require it;

Or. en

Amendment 41
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 5

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

5. Calls for the support made available to SMEs for accessing capital to be modulated in accordance with SME demand; notes, in this regard, that industry in the EU displays a wide range of business profiles and necessities reflecting SMEs' size, area of activity and geographic location;

5. Calls for the support made available to SMEs for accessing capital to be modulated in accordance with ***respective and specific*** SME demand ***in order to avoid a one-size-fits-all approach***; notes, in this regard, that industry in the EU displays a wide range of business profiles and necessities reflecting SMEs' size, ***sector, structure***, area of activity and geographic location;

Or. en

Amendment 42
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6

Motion for a resolution

6. Considers that a holistic strategy for trade finance, aimed at fostering internationalisation of SMEs, is **urgently** needed; believes that the EU should promote and support incentives to develop SMEs ***in strategic sectors in a proactive fashion, especially in the case of high-value-added manufacturing activities that offer a competitive edge over emerging economies as well as high-quality jobs for European citizens; stresses the need, therefore, to identify promising niche markets and foster their development;***

Amendment

6. Considers that a holistic strategy for trade finance, aimed at fostering internationalisation of SMEs, is needed; believes that the EU should promote and support incentives to develop SMEs ***that wish to internationalise while at the same time protecting the small producers, SMEs, workers in third countries, protecting their industries, jobs, standard of living and environment;***

Or. en

Amendment 43
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6a. Stresses that foreign market development should not result in negative impacts on other aspects of SME business;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Francesca Balzani

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6a. Considers that the effective protection of SMEs against unfair trading practices by EU partner states is just as important as helping SMEs wishing to internationalize; considers internationalisation and protection as two sides of the same coin of the globalisation process

Or. en

**Amendment 45
Helmut Scholz**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 b (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6b. Stresses the need to foster cooperation between European SMEs and third country enterprises in order to facilitate market entry as well as integration into third markets;

Or. en

**Amendment 46
Helmut Scholz**

**Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 c (new)**

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6c. Calls on the Commission as well as banks and other financial institutions to provide clients with information about alternative financial instruments and actively support networks of mentors, advisors and business angels;

Amendment 47
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

6d. Calls on the Commission to study the European business angel market and other informed markets in order to build up the capacity of business angel network managers;

Or. en

Amendment 48
Daniel Caspary

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

7. Recognises the need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs; considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding, export guarantees (e.g. an export credit guarantee to eliminate commercial and political risks of non-payment), and business insurance solutions, including an export credit insurance to prevent exchange rate risk;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 49

María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Daniel Caspary, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Recognises the *need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs; considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding, export guarantees (e.g. an export credit guarantee to eliminate commercial and political risks of non-payment), and business insurance solutions, including an export credit insurance to prevent exchange rate risk;*

Amendment

7. Recognises the *existence of well-established and experienced systems at the national level offering access to export credits, in particular for SMEs, whose continuity is at the moment reasonable; takes the position, however, that in the medium term the establishment of systematic support in export credits at EU level, on the basis of national best practice, necessitates further discussion;*

Or. en

Amendment 50

Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution

Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Recognises the need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs; considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding, export guarantees (e.g. an export credit guarantee to eliminate commercial and political risks of non-payment), and business insurance solutions, including an export credit

Amendment

7. Recognises the need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs, *in doing so taking measures to ensure ECAs are only provided for projects that comply with environmental and labour standards*, considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding, export guarantees (e.g. an export credit

insurance to prevent exchange rate risk;

guarantee to eliminate commercial and political risks of non-payment), and business insurance solutions, including an export credit insurance to prevent exchange rate risk;

Or. en

Amendment 51
Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7

Motion for a resolution

7. Recognises the need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs; considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding, ***export guarantees (e.g. an export credit guarantee to eliminate commercial and political risks of non-payment)***, and business insurance solutions, ***including an export credit insurance to prevent exchange rate risk***;

Amendment

7. Recognises the need to establish, at EU level, an SME export/import facility which would disburse additional support to SMEs via ECAs; considers that, drawing on national best practice, this additional support could involve soft and fixed-interest-rate loans, short-term work capital and refinancing, equity funding and business insurance solutions;

Or. en

Amendment 52
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 7 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

7a. Draws attention to a regulation for securing credits for SMEs in the case that banks might sell off or reduce high risk-

weighted or non-strategic assets, in particular credits and lending to SMEs, in order to reduce their total risk-weighted assets; thus, they would engage in swapping high risk-weighted assets, mainly lending to businesses, for lower ones such as sovereign debt, inter-bank claims and residential mortgages;

Or. en

Amendment 53
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 – indent 2

Motion for a resolution

– lowering enforcement costs for lenders and raising the overall quality of financial information concerning SMEs, in order to enhance their creditworthiness in the eyes of the lenders;

Amendment

– raising the overall quality of financial information concerning SMEs, in order to enhance their creditworthiness in the eyes of the lenders;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 8 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

8a. Calls for taxation reforms benefitting both, SMEs acting on the single market as well as on third markets to avoid double taxation, in particular with regard to intra EU cross border venture capital, tax treatment uncertainties, and administrative obstacles;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 9

Motion for a resolution

9. Highlights the need to provide SMEs with financial and technical assistance focused on **market research**, project and export finance advisory, legal counselling (e.g. on escape clauses or penalties for late payment or default), customs and tax obligations, **the fight against counterfeiting**, and company presentations at trade fairs and business networking events (e.g. to find distributors in a third country);

Amendment

9. Highlights the need to provide SMEs with financial and technical assistance focused on project and export finance advisory, legal counselling (e.g. on escape clauses or penalties for late payment or default), customs and tax obligations and company presentations at trade fairs and business networking events (e.g. to find distributors in a third country);

Or. en

Amendment 56
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 11

Motion for a resolution

11. Calls for increased **public-private partnerships in providing** seed money and venture capital to MSMEs in the EU, **while sharing entrepreneurial risk**; points in this regard to the positive role that both micro-finance institutions and social entrepreneurship funds can play in developing business opportunities that also have strong social, ethical and environmental goals;

Amendment

11. Calls for increased **provision of** seed money and venture capital to MSMEs in the EU; points in this regard to the positive role that both micro-finance institutions and social entrepreneurship funds can play in developing business opportunities that also have strong social, ethical and environmental goals;

Or. en

Amendment 57
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Calls for endeavours at national and EU level *to simplify the business environment for SMEs, in close consultation with EU* SMEs' associations, chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in support of both *cutting red tape* and internationalising SMEs;

Amendment

12. Calls for endeavours at national and EU level, *in close consultation with EU trade unions, environmental NGOs, health and safety experts*, SMEs' associations, chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in support of both *simplifying administrative duties* and internationalising SMEs;

Or. en

Amendment 58
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12

Motion for a resolution

12. Calls for endeavours at national and EU level to simplify the business environment for SMEs, in close consultation with EU SMEs' associations, chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in support of both cutting red tape and internationalising SMEs;

Amendment

12. Calls for endeavours at national and EU level to simplify the business environment for SMEs, *and create a map of support programmes* in close consultation with EU SMEs' associations, chambers of commerce and industry, as well as other relevant stakeholders, in support of both cutting red tape and internationalising SMEs;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 12 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

12a. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to make European SMEs more aware of trade agreements that are being negotiated and international investment opportunities open to SMEs;

Or. fr

Amendment 60
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13. Urges the Member States to adopt single enterprise helpdesks at the local level, run in cooperation with EU businesses, so that SMEs can receive, in their own language and for immediate use, information regarding export/import opportunities, existing barriers to trade (both tariffs and NTBs), investment protection, dispute settlement provisions **and** competitors in third markets;

13. Urges the Member States to adopt single enterprise helpdesks at the local level, run in cooperation with EU businesses, so that SMEs can receive, in their own language and for immediate use, information regarding export/import opportunities, existing barriers to trade (both tariffs and NTBs), investment protection, dispute settlement provisions, competitors **and a knowledge and understanding of cultural and human practices** in third markets;

Or. fr

Amendment 61
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13a. Calls for a network to be set up between SMEs and large European companies to enable SMEs to reap the benefits of these companies' expertise and export and innovation capacities;

Or. fr

Amendment 62
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 13 b (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

13b. Calls on the Commission to promote exchanges between the heads of European and foreign SMEs along the lines of the 'Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs' programme that currently exists at European Union level;

Or. fr

Amendment 63
María Auxiliadora Correa Zamora, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Daniel Caspary, Pablo Zalba Bidegain

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14. Encourages EU businesses and exporters to actively use the TDIs, such as the TBR complaints or the complaints register in the Market Access Database, in order to report to the Commission on material injuries resulting from trade barriers and enable, where appropriate, ex

14. Encourages EU businesses and exporters to actively use the TDIs, such as the TBR complaints or the complaints register in the Market Access Database, in order to report to the Commission on material injuries resulting from trade barriers and enable, where appropriate, ex

officio initiations of anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing duties (CVD) investigations by the Commission *so as to avoid retaliation*;

officio initiations of anti-dumping (AD) and countervailing duties (CVD) investigations by the Commission, *in close collaboration with industry*

Or. en

Amendment 64
Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 14 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

14a. Regards better, less costly and faster access of SMEs to anti-dumping procedures as key to better protecting them from unfair trade practices by trade partners; calls on the Commission to pay due consideration to this concern when reforming the EU's Trade Defence Instruments;

Or. en

Amendment 65
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on ***their profitability; insists that tackling NTBs must be regarded as a top priority on the Commission's agenda, in particular through the harmonisation of technical rules based on relevant global standards;***

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on ***them;***

Amendment 66
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on their profitability; ***insists that tackling NTBs must be regarded as a top priority on the Commission's agenda***, in particular through the harmonisation of technical rules based on relevant global standards;

Amendment

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on their profitability; ***Calls on the Commission to address NTBs***, in particular through the harmonisation of technical rules based on relevant global standards;

Amendment 67
Francesca Balzani

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15

Motion for a resolution

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on their profitability; insists that tackling NTBs must be regarded as a top priority on the Commission's agenda, in particular through the harmonisation of technical rules based on relevant global standards;

Amendment

15. Calls on the Commission to involve SMEs in the establishment of international standards (e.g. ISO), since changes in regulatory regimes directly impact on their profitability; insists that tackling ***unjustified*** NTBs must be regarded as a top priority on the Commission's agenda, in particular through the harmonisation of technical rules based on relevant global standards;

Amendment 68
Amelia Andersdotter

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 15 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

15a. Is concerned with the effects of wrongful border injunctions and seizures based on alleged intellectual property rights infringement on the internationalisation of European small and medium sized enterprises; takes notice of how only at the EU borders in 2011, goods were established to have been detained by mistake in more than 2700 cases; requests a thorough evaluation of how such wrongful injunctions and seizures made by third party customs authorities could affect SME foreign investment opportunities to be undertaken by the Commission;

Or. en

Amendment 69
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

16. Calls on the Commission to address these widespread and persistent issues in all multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, and especially in free trade agreements with both industrialised and emerging economies, and to ensure that in the WTO, NTBs receive, at the very least, as much attention as is currently paid to tariff elimination;

deleted

Or. en

Amendment 70
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16

Motion for a resolution

16. Calls on the Commission to address these widespread and persistent issues in all multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, and especially in free trade agreements with both industrialised and emerging economies, and to ensure that in the WTO, NTBs receive, at the very least, as much attention as is currently paid to tariff elimination;

Amendment

16. Calls on the Commission to address these widespread and persistent issues in all multilateral and bilateral trade agreements, and especially in free trade agreements with both industrialised and emerging economies, and to ensure that in the WTO, NTBs receive, at the very least, as much attention as is currently paid to tariff elimination; ***insists however that addressing NTBs must avoid an adverse effect on regulatory issues that relate to health and safety requirements, labour standards and labour rights as well as respecting and maintaining the character of services as public services;***

Or. en

Amendment 71
Marielle de Sarnez

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 16 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

16a. Regrets the lack of specific means available to European businesses, and particularly SMEs, to counter IPR infringements effectively; welcomes the Commission's decision to propose a review of the directive on the enforcement of IPR; calls on the Commission and Member States to defend IPR better in all relevant multilateral organisations (the WTO, the World Health Organisation and

Amendment

Amendment 72
Helmut Scholz

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Calls on the Union to fully exploit the investment opportunities for EU MSMEs that stem from the European Neighbourhood Policy, with a special focus on crossborder investment in the countries of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean partnerships; ***considers that the Commission and the EEAS should develop synergies in order to further upgrade the Union's commercial diplomacy worldwide;***

Amendment

17. Calls on the Union to fully exploit the investment opportunities for EU MSMEs that stem from the European Neighbourhood Policy, with a special focus on crossborder investment in the countries of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean partnerships;

Amendment 73
Paul Murphy

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17

Motion for a resolution

17. Calls on the Union to fully exploit the investment opportunities for EU MSMEs that stem from the European Neighbourhood Policy, with a special focus on crossborder investment in the countries of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean partnerships; considers that the Commission and the EEAS should develop synergies in order to further upgrade the Union's commercial diplomacy

Amendment

17. Calls on the Union to fully exploit the investment opportunities for EU MSMEs that stem from the European Neighbourhood Policy, with a special focus on crossborder investment in the countries of the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean partnerships; considers that the Commission and the EEAS should develop synergies in order to further upgrade the Union's commercial diplomacy

worldwide;

worldwide; *insists that investment opportunities in the Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood Policy must be used to contribute substantially towards fulfilling the social as well as economic aspirations of the masses of those regions and that increased funding will take place on the condition of promoting sustainable economic development, deepened regional co-operation, a decrease in unemployment and a rise in living standards for the whole population, as opposed to being a tool for the economic and political interests of big business in Europe;*

Or. en

Amendment 74
Francesca Balzani

Motion for a resolution
Paragraph 17 a (new)

Motion for a resolution

Amendment

17a. Requests that the EU develops an ambitious common industrial policy based on fostering research and innovation that benefits from innovative finance arrangements, such as project bonds and supports the development of SME's, via access to public procurement, in order to maintain its competitiveness vis-à-vis major players in industry and research

Or. en