



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Legal Affairs*

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**2010/2277(INI)**

1.3.2011

# OPINION

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

on a Single Market for Enterprises and Growth  
(2010/2277(INI))

Rapporteur: Piotr Borys

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## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Given the Council's failure to reach a unanimous decision on the translation arrangement for EU patents, welcomes the request made by several Member States for authorisation for enhanced cooperation in the area of the creation of unitary patent protection, allowing participating Member States to establish a patent valid in all participating countries; calls on all Member States to join in the enhanced cooperation; encourages swift adoption and implementation to support innovation and strengthen European competitiveness on a global scale;
2. Highlights the calls in the Mario Monti report and in the European Parliament's resolution of 20 May 2010 on delivering a single market to consumers and citizens (Louis Grech report), for a more holistic approach to the internal market, in terms of both strategy and perception, with a view to making it more effective and restoring public confidence; underlines the importance of the 'Single Market Act' initiative of legislative and non-legislative proposals to strengthen and update the internal market, complete the digital internal market and address and break down remaining barriers;
3. Agrees with the list of measures identified by the Commission to promote and protect creativity, and calls on the Commission not to delay any further the presentation of the proposals for legislative and non-legislative measures in this area, supported by a thorough impact assessment, in particular the framework directive on collective management of copyright and orphan works; takes the view that the Commission revision of the EU trademark legislation should be included on that list;
4. Stresses the need to adapt the EU legislative framework in the area of copyright to the ubiquity of the online world, whilst ensuring copyright protection, legal certainty and fair remuneration of rightsholders for both offline and online uses; points out that a more efficient and less costly licensing process through interoperable technological platforms is a key issue for the creation of a single digital market;
5. Notes that one of the great advantages of the internal market has been the removal of barriers to mobility and the harmonisation of institutional regulations, fostering cultural understanding, integration, economic growth and European solidarity;
6. Calls for Commission proposals to revise the Accounting Directives in order to avoid costly and inefficient over-regulation, in particular for SMEs, so that their competitiveness and growth potential can be exploited more effectively;
7. Stresses the need to interconnect the business registries of the 27 Member States via a single access point and for the data concerned to be reliable, kept up to date and provided in a standard format and in all EU official languages. Notes that greater transparency in the internal market could lead to increased cross-border investment; is convinced that better and easier access to information is necessary in order to assist small and medium-

sized enterprises, which are a key element in the backbone of the European economy and the main motor for creating jobs, economic growth and social cohesion in Europe, as it helps to lighten the administrative burdens of such enterprises;

8. Calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps to introduce proposals for European statutes for associations, mutual societies and foundations, to propose a feasibility study and an impact assessment for the statutes for associations and mutual societies, and to complete the impact assessment for the statute for foundations in due course;
9. Warns against the notion that the European economy can somehow develop and grow without free and fair trade with as many other countries in the world as possible, including our leading trade partner today, the US, and emerging economies like China, India and Brazil; considers that the European Union should also rely on its own strengths by making better use of its internal market, especially since the bulk of its growth is also linked to domestic demand;
10. Points out that a renewed single market should take into account the specific needs of people with disabilities and use their potential to contribute to the economic growth of the EU; calls on the Commission to take further actions in order to facilitate their access to market both as employees and consumers.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	28.2.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 18 - : 0 0 : 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Raffaele Baldassarre, Sebastian Valentin Bodu, Françoise Castex, Christian Engström, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Antonio Masip Hidalgo, Alajos Mészáros, Bernhard Rapkay, Evelyn Regner, Francesco Enrico Speroni, Alexandra Thein, Cecilia Wikström, Tadeusz Zwiefka
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Piotr Borys, Sergio Gaetano Cofferati, Sajjad Karim, Eva Lichtenberger, Toine Manders