

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Legal Affairs*

PROVISIONAL  
**2006/2274(INI)**

28.2.2007

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Legal Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Putting knowledge into practice: A broad-based innovation strategy for  
Europe  
(2006/2274(INI))

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Legal Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas barriers that continue to hamper mobility of goods, services and the labour force persist in the single market, depriving European businesses of the scale necessary to capitalise on the investments in research and innovation,
  - B. whereas innovative products and services require a mature and sophisticated consumer base and a market ready to adopt them, and whereas consumer confidence depends on and is encouraged by a robust consumer protection system,
  - C. whereas a robust and yet flexible regulatory environment for intellectual property rights is an indispensable precondition for the development and introduction of new products, services and solutions on the market,
  - D. whereas a predictable legal framework for patent recognition, supplemented by an efficient dispute resolution system is a key element for safeguarding and protecting investment in new products and services,
1. Welcomes the Commission's Internal Market Review initiative, creating preconditions for a better assessment of its main deficiencies and the establishment of a road map for further steps, including measures to improve the regulatory framework and to relieve the administrative burden for European businesses;
  2. Welcomes and supports the Commission's initiative to carry out an overall examination of the copyright acquis with a view to ensuring that the legal framework and its application keep pace with the development of new products and services, with particular regard to new digital services requiring a special approach to copyright clearance;
  3. Encourages initiatives aimed at improving the overall European governance structure and particularly the intention of the Commission to assess Member States' reforms and policies by addressing the innovation system in its Annual Progress Report, and invites the Council to regularly assess the impact of national innovation policies on competitiveness;
  4. Welcomes the Commission's proposal on the establishment of the European Institute of Technology and supports the objective of making the Institute operational by 2009;
  5. Calls upon the Commission to capitalise on the results of the public consultation on new patent strategy launched in 2006;
  6. Welcomes the Commission's initiative to prepare a more comprehensive strategy for intellectual property rights in 2007, which is aimed at, inter alia, improving and facilitating the circulation of innovative ideas;
  7. Supports the Commission's objective of preparing a new regulatory framework for state aid to research, development and innovation along with the preparation of detailed

guidelines for the design and evaluation of generally applicable tax incentives for research and development;

8. Calls upon the Commission to take further steps to promote the dissemination and use of the Handbook on pre-commercial and commercial innovation-oriented tendering and (public) procurement, and supports further initiatives directed towards relevant contracting authorities.