# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

*2004* *2009*

*Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection*

**2008/2234(INI)**

26.1.2009

# OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on Problems and prospects concerning European Citizenship
(2008/2234(INI))

Rapporteur: Iliana Malinova Iotova

PA_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Notes that the many cases of incorrect or non-application of EC law, as evidenced by the increase in the number of cases referred to SOLVIT, shows that a system such as SOLVIT is needed to offer citizens fast and practical assistance;

2. Calls on Member States to provide SOLVIT with the human resources needed to address the increasing case flow and to further promote the service;

3. Believes that Europe Direct should be promoted better to all citizens, and recommends that an EU-level media campaign be coordinated by the Commission to that end; calls on the Commission to monitor the proliferation of websites relating to Europe Direct and SOLVIT and to focus key information and contacts on specific websites of reference;

4. Calls on the Commission to develop a European Charter for Consumer Rights to provide easily accessible information to citizens on their most common problems;

5. Welcomes the Commission's "Action plan on an integrated approach for providing Single Market Assistance Services to citizens and businesses" (SEC(2008)1882) in order to avoid fragmentation of contact points and, as stressed in the Services Directive, encourages the creation of points of single contact for services and goods in each Member State;

6. Recommends, in light of the fundamental Treaty principles of free movement, non-discrimination and the rights of citizens, that the Commission continue to use all means available to it to achieve the lifting of the remaining transitional arrangements imposed on new Member States as soon as possible;

7. Calls on the Commission to ensure that citizens of new Member States do not face any other obstacles or discrimination when traveling within the EU 15, such as obstacles or discrimination relating to legal documentation or airport entry procedures;

8. Encourages Member States and the Commission to facilitate the preservation of pensions and employees' rights within the European Union.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Date adopted** | 22.1.2009 |
| **Result of final vote** | +: 31<br>–: 0<br>0: 0 |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Cristian Silviu Buşoi, Charlotte Cederschiöld, Janelly Fourtou, Evelyne Gebhardt, Martí Grau i Segú, Malcolm Harbour, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Kurt Lechner, Toine Manders, Nickolay Mladenov, Catherine Neris, Zita Pleštinská, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Zuzana Roithová, Heide Rühle, Leopold Józef Rutowicz, Christel Schaldemose, Andreas Schwab, Eva-Britt Svensson, Marianne Thyssen, Bernadette Vergnaud, Barbara Weiler |
| **Substitute(s) present for the final vote** | Emmanouil Angelakas, Wolfgang Bulfon, Colm Burke, Giovanna Corda, Brigitte Fouré, Joel Hasse Ferreira, Olle Schmidt |
| **Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote** | Jean-Pierre Audy, Michel Teychenné |