

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

7.3.2007

PE 386.355v01-00

AMENDMENTS 1-12

Draft opinion

(PE 384.583v01-00)

Sharon Bowles

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

Amendment by Sharon Bowles

Amendment 1

Paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. *Calls on the Commission to establish uniform definitions for such terms as 'open standards' and 'fair, reasonable and non discriminatory licences' and promote the use of standards in such a way that safeguards a reasonable return on investment for owners of intellectual property, but without creating standards 'windfall' profits;*

Or. en

Amendment by Heide Rühle and Alain Lipietz

Amendment 2

Paragraph 2 a (new)

2a. *Points out that the current patent system represents a threat to innovation as it does not answer the needs of some economic fields and as an increase in the amount of patents granted causes an increase in the number of patent disputes; calls therefore on the Commission to bring together, in cooperation with the Member States, a group of leading economists to draw up proposals for new, substantive Community patent laws; also calls on the Commission to carry out a study into the impact of patent litigation on SMEs;*

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Amendment by Heide Rühle and Alain Lipietz

Amendment 3
Paragraph 2 b (new)

- 2b. Welcomes the fact that the Commission is to adopt a Communication to promote knowledge transfer between universities and other public research organisations and industry; also welcomes the recent initiatives of the Commission to promote "Open Access" to scientific knowledge, which is aimed at improving its dissemination;**

Or. en

Amendment by Heide Rühle and Alain Lipietz

Amendment 4
Paragraph 2 c (new)

- 2c. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to choose open standards when communicating with the public;**

Or. en

Amendment by Donata Gottardi

Amendment 5
Paragraph 2 a (new)

- 2a. Considers that in order to meet the Lisbon objectives, a European innovation strategy should move towards knowledge and research in the broad sense and include technological development, technical innovation of products, services and processes, social innovation and investment in human capital; reiterates the importance of boosting the presence of women in the fields of science and technology, stressing the contribution that women could give to progress and innovation in these sectors;**

Or. it

Amendment by Donata Gottardi

Amendment 6
Paragraph 2 b (new)

- 2b. Considers it vital to develop research and innovation networks involving universities, science parks, businesses and the entire production system in order to generate concrete social and technological development policies; stresses that such**

a knowledge and innovation network could be the appropriate way to meet also the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises organised in the form of clusters or districts;

Or. it

Amendment by Sharon Bowles

Amendment 7
Paragraph 3 a (new)

- 3a.** *Observes that it was the UK Treasury that commissioned the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property and that intellectual property is becoming increasingly important economically, for stock valuation, raising finance, inward investment and expansion into new territories; notes that it is IP that provides protection for investment in innovation, something which is especially important for SMEs seeking venture capital or joint ventures; notes that the findings of the Gowers review accord with those of the extensive public consultation on future patent policy in Europe conducted by the Commission's DG Internal Market and Services;*

Or. en

Amendment by Sharon Bowles

Amendment 8
Paragraph 3 b (new)

- 3b.** *Noting that the European Community is a member of the World Trade Organisation and thus bound by the WTO-TRIPS Agreement on Trade-Related aspects of Intellectual Property rights, Article 27 of which prohibits discrimination between fields of technology when making patents available for inventions; calls on the Commission to review Europe's history of working requirements and compulsory licensing for patents and analyse whether the circumstances that caused them to fall out of favour have changed;*

Or. en

Amendment by Sharon Bowles

Amendment 9
Paragraph 4

- 4.** Notes that innovation in services plays a major part in the economy and that **for services** protection of intellectual property is often restricted to trade secrets, which can be inadequate **and means that cover is** not as extensive as in **(deletion)** competing jurisdictions **and can also be** in conflict with transparency; notes that smaller

businesses find it difficult and expensive to negotiate and enforce confidentiality agreements, ***a situation which can hinder growth and the raising of venture capital and the formation of joint ventures;***

Or. en

Amendment by Sharon Bowles

Amendment 10
Paragraph 4 a (new)

- 4a. ***Calls on the Commission to investigate alternative dispute resolution mechanisms relevant to intellectual property, including for breaches of confidentiality, in particular for the benefit of SMEs;***

Or. en

Amendment by Donata Gottardi

Amendment 11
Paragraph 5

5. Emphasises that ***to achieve*** cost effectiveness and ***establish*** innovative products with ease, ***it*** is vital ***to eliminate*** fragmentation in the single market ***and encourage concentrations of SMEs in districts – a basic requirement for developing and implementing innovation***; believes that public procurement relating to innovative solutions should not be hampered by excessive risk aversion or purely cost-centred tendering; notes that modular IT solutions offer greater opportunities for smaller businesses and pilot projects.

Or. it

Amendment by Donata Gottardi

Amendment 12
Paragraph 6

6. Encourages Member States to adopt tax incentives for research, innovation and private investment ***and calls on businesses to promote greater research and innovation by means of appropriate corporate social responsibility policies, in order to improve quality and well-being in the workplace for all working people and to protect the environment;***

Or. it