

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2008/2237(INI)

17.10.2008

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on Small Business Act
(2008/2237(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Gunnar Hökmark

(*): Associated committee - Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary 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:

1. Underlines that the application of the "Think Small First" principle at Community and national level requires the consistent implementation of the internal market rules and the Services Directive¹ and an efficient follow-up by the Commission in order to secure that all obstacles are eliminated in accordance with those rules and calls for a sector inquiry to be conducted with a view to facilitating fair and open competition for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) all over Europe;
2. Calls for increased efforts to be made in implementing mutual recognition in order to facilitate cross-border activities of SMEs;
3. Calls for better access for SMEs to public procurement as well as the opening up, where possible, of services of general interest to public tenders;
4. Underlines the importance of a Statute for a European Private Company;
5. Stresses that dynamic financial markets are essential for the financing of SMEs and underlines the need to open up European risk capital markets by improving the availability of and access to venture capital, mezzanine finance and micro-credit;
6. Is of the opinion that any new legislation, for example in the field of payments, copyright, company law or State aid (such as the General block exemption Regulation²) should be formulated in such a way so as not to discriminate against SMEs but, rather, to support them and the provision of their services across the internal market;
7. Takes the view that legislation regarding SMEs must be supportive of their growth and must not create artificial limits for their ability to take the lead in the development of European Economy.

¹ Directive 2006/123/EC of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market (OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36).

² Commission Regulation (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the common market in application of Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty (General block exemption Regulation (OJ L 214, 9.8.2008, p. 3).