



2025/2542(RSP)

18.3.2025

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B10-0000/2025

pursuant to Rule 142(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on Old challenges and new commercial practices in the internal market
(2025/2542(RSP))

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on behalf of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

**European Parliament resolution on Old challenges and new commercial practices in the internal market
(2025/2542(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection of 10 January 2023 on the 30th anniversary of the single market: celebrating achievements and looking towards future developments,
 - having regard to the Report on “Much more than a Market” by Enrico Letta,
 - having regard to the Report “A competitiveness strategy for Europe” by Mario Draghi;
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 29 of January 2025 entitled “the 2025 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report” (COM(2025)26),
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 29 of January 2025, entitled “A Competitiveness compass for the EU” (COM(2025)30),
 - having regard to the Commission Communication of 11 of February 2025, entitled “A simpler and faster Europe: Communication on implementation and simplification (COM(2025)47),
 - having regard to the question to the Commission on Text (O-000000 – B10-0000/0000),
 - having regard to Rules 142(5) and 136(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection,
- A. Whereas the European Union’s ability to compete and prosper in the global economy is vital, especially amid current geopolitical challenges, ***climate and other environmental crises***, its current, medium and long-term competitiveness relies on a fully integrated and efficient single market ***which allows European businesses to innovate, prosper and prioritises the reduction of administrative burden***;
- B. Whereas the single market, comprising nearly 450 million citizens and 23 million businesses, generates a GDP of EUR 17 trillion, positioning the EU among the world’s three largest economies and contributing approximately one-sixth of global economic output;
- C. ***Whereas the Draghi report demonstrated that compliance costs resulting from various pieces of legislation remain very high for European companies which therefore hinder European innovation capacity***;
- D. ***Whereas it remains crucial to improve the functioning of the Single Market by***

addressing still existing fragmentation through common, harmonised EU policies, more efficient implementation and enforcement, and the simplification of EU rules; whereas, reducing administrative burdens and costs—especially for SMEs—can help foster innovation and support European businesses; whereas, unlocking the full potential of the Single Market requires overcoming persistent barriers to the free movement of goods and services.

- F.** Whereas the rapid expansion of digital platforms and e-commerce has introduced new market dynamics and whereas evolving trends in global e-commerce are exerting additional pressure on customs controls, market surveillance, and consumer protection authorities;
- G.** Whereas geopolitical shifts and global economic transformations are reshaping supply chains, requiring the EU to adapt its single market policies; *whereas the EU has set the highest standards regarding safety of products, consumer protection, both offline and online;*
- H.** *Whereas attention has been drawn to increasingly reported cases across the European Union in which goods and services offer less in terms of quantity or quality, despite stable or rising prices;*

Old and enduring challenges

1. Reaffirms that the single market has been a cornerstone of European economic integration, enabling the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people; stresses, however, that there are long-standing and emerging challenges that necessitate ambitious reforms *without harming European competitiveness and imposing unnecessary administrative burdens on companies*; calls on the Commission and Member States to accelerate efforts to those reforms and to eliminate remaining *unjustified* obstacles to the free movement of goods and services, *while ensuring a high level of consumer protection*;
2. *Calls on the Commission and the Member States to maintain strong consumer protection while also providing for competition rules that are innovation-friendly, future-proof, and proportionate; emphasizes the need to ensure legal certainty, consistency and minimize regulatory complexity and fragmentation, which could disproportionately affect SMEs, start-ups, and scale-ups.*
 - 2a. *Calls on the Commission to ensure that future legislative initiatives are consistently guided by the strategic priorities outlined in its communications and competitiveness strategy.*
3. *Firmly underlines that, as demonstrated by the reports from Letta and Draghi, untapped potential remains in the services sector; calls for further action in this sector to address the significant obstacles that persist, starting from ambitious targets to be set in the upcoming Single Market strategy; notes that services account for three quarters of EU GDP, represent two thirds of employment, and create nine out of 10 new jobs in the EU economy, however, services are still the least developed segment of the EU single market;*

4. Welcomes the proposal for a Regulation on a public interface connected to the Internal Market Information System for the declaration of posting of workers and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 *that should lead to simplification and strengthened enforcement; notes also that digitalisation could significantly reduce administrative burdens for cross-border services and ensuring a better access for businesses and consumers; calls, in this regard, for a single declaration portal and the digitalisation of AI forms for cross-border services;*
5. *Stresses the importance of the effective recognition of professional qualifications and the removal of unjustified barriers to the free movement of professionals in order to make EU professional services globally competitive in future decades; encourages the Commission to remain vigilant in pursuing infringement procedures where Member States do not comply with EU legislation on the recognition of qualifications;*
6. *Stresses that single market rules should safeguard access to public services, preserve consumer rights, as well as other overriding reasons of public interest; adds that any assessment to evaluate restrictions in the single market for services should include qualitative criteria;*
7. *Notes the role that EU public procurement can play in overcoming barriers to market entry, supporting sustainable and resilient industrial ecosystems, high quality jobs and value creation in the EU;*
8. Acknowledges that the New Legislative Framework (NLF) has contributed to consistency in the EU product legislation *and that since its adoption, industry sector, supply chains and products have experienced important transformations in light of the digital and green transition, but also changes into market dynamics;* notes that the 2022 evaluation of the NLF identified critical challenges, such as potential foreign influence, illegal practices, inadequacies in addressing digitalisation and the circular economy *and potential updated obligations and definitions for certain economic operators to reflect new market realities;*
9. Stresses that addressing these issues *and making the NLF future proof* is essential to ensure coherence, reduce costs and ensure free movement of goods; *calls, therefore, for an update of NLF in order to streamline product rules, promote digitalisation and simplify compliance and market surveillance procedures; considers that the NLF should promote the use of Digital Product Passports as a means of demonstrating product conformity and complying with information requirements;*
10. Calls on the Commission and Member States to make implementation of EU rules easier, to reduce *significantly* administrative burdens and simplify EU rules, *in particular for SMEs, which play a vital role in sustaining local communities and economies;* stresses the importance *of ensuring legal certainty and consistency for businesses, as well as predictability for long-term investments that are essential to* boost competitiveness, *innovation* and resilience, and deliver fast and meaningful improvements for consumers and businesses; *furthermore, calls on Member States to prevent actions that could create an unlevel playing field in the internal market;*
11. Recognises that inconsistent *and fragmented* enforcement of EU laws across Member States continues to distort competition and undermine the single market's integrity; *adds that enforcement of EU rules lies primarily with Member States; invites the*

Commission to make full use of its enforcement powers; calls for improved monitoring, and enforcement mechanisms at EU level such as harmonised rules on minimum level of checks, harmonised methodologies to conduct those, joint inspections, to ensure uniform application of EU law and, where applicable, swift redress for consumers;

13. Stresses the importance of maintaining a competitive and dynamic economic environment by enforcing digital competition rules addressing unfair business practices that distort market conditions and safeguarding consumers' rights; ***furthermore, calls on Member States to increase the capacity of market surveillance authorities and customs authorities to ensure effective enforcement of single market rules, particularly when it comes to e-commerce and imports from third countries;***
14. Recalls that territorial supply constraints in retail and wholesale fragment the single market, limit consumer choice and contribute to significant price differences across the Union, ***especially those of basic consumer's goods***; highlights that competition law effectively penalises ***some of these practices***, many, however, fall outside its scope; calls, therefore, on the Commission to propose measures to address the issue, ***including stronger enforcement against anti-competitive distribution agreements, to ensure fair competition and*** thereby ensuring the integrity of the single market;
15. ***Calls on the Commission to investigate the causes for the differentiated levels of the inflation of basic goods and consumer price increases observed in some EU Member States;***
16. ***Considers that the single market is a key tool in times of crisis if Member States can act in a coordinated way; considers that the recently adopted Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA) will be crucial to ensure such coordination so as to prevent shortages and ensure the smooth functioning of the single market, including the free movement of essential goods and services throughout the EU;***
17. ***Calls on the Commission to empower consumers to easily exercise their passenger rights by establishing national enforcement bodies which should be granted with harmonised investigation and enforcement powers, be able to efficiently process individual complaints and related fines;***
18. ***Highlights that e-commerce measures targeting geo-blocking, notably the Geoblocking Regulation, have been successful in creating the framework for a less fragmented single market and enhancing consumer choice for online shopping; notes with concern that the implementation of the regulation has been inadequate;***
19. ***Notes that the European Accessibility Act will become applicable across all EU Member States as of 28 June 2025; stresses the importance of its full and effective implementation by Member States to ensure the harmonisation of accessibility requirements for products and services, thereby guaranteeing their accessibility to persons with disabilities across the EU internal market;***

Emerging Commercial Practices

20. Highlights that the rapid expansion of digital platforms and e-commerce has introduced new market dynamics and has created advanced opportunities and challenges ***and risks*** for users; acknowledges that the Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the Digital Services Act

(DSA) constitute key legislative instruments ensuring fair competition, contestability and fairness in digital platforms, while also fostering a safer, *trustful* and more transparent digital environment and consumer protection in the digital economy, **and calls for proper enforcement of our new tech legislation to ensure genuine, autonomous and informed consumer choice and protection and fair competition;**

21. **Considers it essential to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of these two legislative acts and urge the Commission to conclude its ongoing investigations in the framework of the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act;**
23. **Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the AI Act maintains a risk-based, innovation-friendly approach; ensuring that compliance requirements are proportionate to the actual risks posed by AI applications while respecting the need to ensure a high level of protection of health, safety and fundamental rights;**
24. **Welcomes the Commission's 'digital fairness' fitness check of consumer law and the upcoming public consultation; underlines that when it comes to protecting consumers online some issues remain unaddressed, leading to an imbalance between consumer and trader within the digital economy; calls on the Commission to address these issues in the upcoming Digital Fairness Act; believes that digital addiction, online gambling and persuasive technologies used by online actors such as targeted advertising, influencer advertising, dark patterns and protection of minors online, should be considered as part of the Digital Fairness Act which should close existing legal loopholes and should be consistent with existing legal instruments in order to better protect consumers online, taking into account the need to avoid unnecessary regulatory burden;**
25. Notes that evolving trends in global e-commerce, and supply chain restructuring, are placing greater pressure on customs controls, market surveillance, and consumer protection authorities; highlights that the volume of unsafe and illicit products sold on e-commerce platforms, in particular from non-EU countries, is increasing in recent years; **highlights the significance of Digital Product Passports in these processes;** calls on, therefore, for a reinforced market surveillance framework, a revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation and calls on Member States to adopt *swiftly* its position in order to allow *for* the **adoption** of the revised Union Customs Code and establishment of an EU Customs Authority **in 2026;**
26. **Calls on Member States to allocate sufficient technical, human and financial resources to national authorities; calls Member States and Commission to ensure sufficient funds and expertise to strengthen customs authorities and market surveillance across the Union and to intensify joint activities and EU testing;**
27. Emphasises the need to strengthen consumer protection in both online and offline markets, ensuring transparency in *advertising and* pricing, *especially when it comes to dynamic pricing, ensuring* fair business practices, stronger safeguards against fraud to foster consumer trust in cross-border commerce **and the highest level of protection;**
28. **Stresses that growing attention has been drawn to instances where goods and services offer less in terms of quantity or quality while prices remain the same or increase; calls on the Commission to assess the scale and underlying causes of such practices and to explore appropriate measures to enhance transparency and consumer awareness;**

29. Underlines that environmental *sustainability and fair-trade* considerations are increasingly shaping commercial practices *by playing an important role in consumers' purchasing decisions* and *consequently* driving businesses towards sustainability; *adds that transparency and information to consumers on environmental aspects as well as on socially-responsible and ethical production processes allows consumers to engage in sustainable consumption patterns;*
30. *Calls on the Commission and Member States to maintain the level of ambition in this regard and further work on EU-wide labelling schemes; recalls that the objective of the Green Claims Directive is to establish a tool to protect consumers against greenwashing by establishing requirements for substantiation and verification;*
31. *Highlights the need to further combat misleading advertising and greenwashing and to strengthen second-hand market; notes, however, that restrictive sustainability rules may have negative impacts on European competitiveness;*
32. *Highlights that some growing trends in e-commerce raise concerns with regard to goods from third countries not fulfilling EU safety and sustainability requirements, thus impacting negatively SMEs within the EU; welcomes the Commission communication on "A comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce" and asks the Commission to swiftly implement the recommendations;*
33. Emphasises that harmonised technical standards are essential for the free movement of goods within the single market, ensuring product safety, quality, and performance across Member States; *highlights that standards must reflect interests, policy objectives and values of the Union by taking into account the views of all stakeholders; adds that the recent ECJ ruling¹ acknowledges the added value of harmonised standards that form part of EU law owing to their legal effects and establishes that they should be made freely accessible;* underlines the need to improve the agility of the standardisation framework, particularly for emerging green and digital value chains and help industry to maintain competitive positions in key technology markets;
34. *Considers that the EU must increase its efforts to set up a new mechanism with EU Member States and national standardisation bodies to share information, coordinate and strengthen the European approach to international standardisation activities; calls for swift action to update the EU standardisation framework in order to speed up the standardisation process to ensure the rapid publication of harmonised standards that grant presumption of conformity and that is aligned with international standards to support global trade while encouraging greater industry participation, particularly from SMEs;*
35. Stresses the necessity of reinforcing the external dimension of the single market to safeguard the EU's strategic autonomy and global influence and welcomes the gradual integration of EU candidate countries to the single market with a view to future EU membership; emphasises that the EU's high regulatory standards can serve as a global benchmark and must be effectively enforced to ensure a level playing field for European businesses; *calls on the Commission to intensify regulatory dialogues and political cooperation with other relevant third countries in order to identify common challenges and try to build joint actions especially when it comes to e-commerce and digital rules*

¹ Case C-588/21 P

and consumers;

36. *Reiterates its call for innovative, complementary and flexible interaction between the ongoing work on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement currently in force and the accession negotiation process, thus allowing for Ukraine's gradual integration into the EU single market and sectoral programmes;*

Conclusions

37. Recognises that geopolitical tensions, climate change, *challenges to EU competitiveness* and economic disparities pose significant risks to the integrity of the single market; calls for a robust, coordinated, and strategic policy response to strengthen the single market;
38. Calls for the continued evolution of the single market to address both remaining unjustified barriers and emerging commercial challenges; takes the view that eliminating regulatory fragmentation, promoting simplification, *significantly reducing administrative burdens*, enhancing enforcement and ensuring resilient supply chains are critical to maintaining the EU's competitive edge, fair market conditions and enhancing the single market; *underlines the importance of consulting all relevant stakeholders in these processes;*
39. Emphasises the importance of digital transformation, *circular economy*, and adaptability to global economic shifts in securing the EU's long-term economic dynamism;
40. Reiterates that strengthening the internal and external dimensions of the single market is essential for preserving the EU's strategic autonomy and competitiveness;
41. Urges, therefore, the Commission to reflect this in the forthcoming New Single Market Strategy, scheduled for June 2025, *in the 2030 Consumer agenda, scheduled for end 2025, and in the Digital Fairness Act scheduled for 2026;*
42. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to xxx.