

Competitiveness Council (COMPET): extracts from the press conference (Internal Market) by the Cypriot Presidency and the European Commission

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On 10 December, Neoklis Sylikiotis, Cypriot Minister for Energy affairs and President-in-office of the Council and Michel Barnier, Member of the EC in charge of Internal Market and Services, held the press conference of the Competitiveness Council.

Ministers endorsed a political agreement for the establishment of a unitary patent system valid across the EU. The European Parliament is expected to validate the institutional agreement through a vote at its plenary session on 11 December. The new unitary patent will put in place an affordable model for EU companies to protect their inventions under robust legal guarantees. The unitary patent protection is one of the priority

measures contained in the Single Market Act I package, which is aimed at the completion of the single market by increasing confidence and stimulating growth and jobs creation. Other measures of this package include: – the reform of the public procurement rules, on which the Council reached an agreement on a general approach; – the alternative resolution system for consumer disputes, on which the Council took note of the provisional agreement announced by the Presidency following informal negotiations with the European Parliament; – the review of the professional qualifications directive, on which the Council took note of a progress report, and – the simplification of accounting rules for companies, on which the Council took note of information on the progress of ongoing negotiations.



Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Speakers arriving (2 shots)	00:00:09
00:00:14	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
00:00:18	SOUNDBITE (in Greek) Neoklis Sylikiotis, Cypriot Minister for Energy affairs and President-in-office of the Council, saying that: I am delighted to be able to tell you that the competitive Council decided today to give its political agreement to an historic agreement reach at the committee of the permanent reprehensive on the unitary patent package. I am sure that you know that the discussions to create a single system for patents have been underway for more than 30 years. And I believe that this achievement is a tremendous success for the Cyprus presidency. The adoption of the package will boost the competitiveness of the industry and boost innovation in the EU. And therefore it will play a part in reviving the European economy. It will ensure effective protection for	00:01:12

	European economy. It will ensure effective protection for EU patents and simplifications of the rules which will benefit to the SME's in the EU.	
00:01:30	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
00:01:35	SOUNDBITE (in French) Michel Barnier, Member of the EC in charge of Internal Market and Services, saying that: The most important thing because it was longer waited, is it the EU patent on unitary basis that I proposed already a year and half ago subject to strengthen the cooperation. Now I must say that it was not my preferential approach. And I say that the door is wide opened still for Italy and Spain to join in this unity integrated protection on the single market. And all the companies regardless of the country will be included; there will be absolutely no discrimination against any.	00:00:48
00:02:23	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
00:02:27	SOUNDBITE (in French) Michel Barnier, Member of the EC in charge of Internal Market and Services, saying that: We reach a compromise, you know where the difficulty laid, it as to do with the community framework for this patent with a very clear reference to the EU Court of Justice which is what we were looking for. But as you know, we had difficulties with one of the Member State on this point. And I will leave my colleges to answer the legal aspect of this question. But anyway we manage to find a compromise to maintain the kind of framework that we wanted while achieving a compromise. This is what caused the delay since June. As you know, we found a balance solution for the site of the Unified Court.	00:00:52
00:03:19	General view of press conference	00:00:04
00:03:23	Speakers leaving	00:00:04
00:03:27	End	00:00:00