The Single Market is the beating heart of the EU. It is the largest market in the world, where people, goods, services and money can move almost as freely as within a single country. EU citizens can travel, study, work and fall in love across borders. Consumers can buy safe products on the market and enjoy a high level of food safety.

For the next long-term EU budget 2021-2027, the Commission proposes a new, dedicated €4 billion programme to empower and protect consumers and enable Europe’s many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to thrive.

**A SINGLE MARKET OF ...**
500 million European citizens
24 million companies

**€14 TRILLION GDP/YEAR**
The world’s largest economy

**TRADE IN GOODS**
• 75% of intra-EU trade
• 25% of EU’s GDP

**SERVICES**
• Two thirds of the EU economy
• Account for some 90% of job creation

**FOOD SAFETY**
500 million consumers benefit from safe food

**CONSUMER PROTECTION**
In 2017, there were 2201 alerts in the Rapid Alert System, enabling authorities to stop dangerous products from reaching consumers

**OBJECTIVES OF THE NEW SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME**
• Maintain a high level of food safety
• Give even higher protection to consumers
• Boost the competitiveness of businesses, in particular SMEs
• Improve the governance of the Single Market and compliance with rules
• Produce and disseminate high-quality statistics
• Develop effective European standards
The new Single Market programme will bring many activities together under one coherent umbrella to reduce overlaps. It focuses investment where action will have most impact.

## The Focus Areas

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<tr>
<th>Food Safety</th>
<th>Protect Consumers</th>
<th>Competitiveness</th>
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| Prevent, control and eradicate animal diseases and plant pests  
Support the sustainable food production and consumption  
Support the improvement of animal welfare  
Improve the effectiveness, efficiency and reliability of official controls | Make sure products on the market are safe and consumers know the rules  
Help national authorities to work efficiently together and communicate swiftly | Provide various forms of support to businesses in particular SMEs:  
• Financial support, such as grants and SME loan guarantees under the InvestEU Fund  
• Facilitate access to markets and reduce administrative burden  
• Support uptake of innovation and address global and societal challenges  
• Foster a favourable business environment and entrepreneurial culture |

### Tools:
- Rapid Alert system for Food and feed (RASFF)
- EU reference laboratories and reference centres
- Financing of emergency measures
- Training for competent authorities in the area of food & feed, animal health & welfare and plants health
- Rapid Alert System for dangerous products
- Consumer Protection Coordination network to tackle EU-wide illegal practices (e.g. misleading advertising campaigns)
- European Consumer Centres where citizens can solve problems, for example when shopping online
- Online Dispute Resolution platform which helps consumers solve disputes out of court
- Enterprise Europe Network to provide an integrated package of advice to SMEs on how to innovate and grow internationally
- Debt and equity financing will be available under the ‘SME Window’ of the InvestEU Fund
### An effective Single Market

- Implement and enforce current rules and develop them further in areas including company and contract law, anti-money laundering and the free movement of capital.
- Ensure financial services meet the needs of consumers, civil society and end-users.
- Enhance tools and expertise of the Commission to effectively enforce competition rules in the digital economy, such as the use of big data and algorithms.
- Better functioning of the Single Market on the ground by helping public buyers to get better value for citizens’ money.

### European statistics

- Provide funding to national statistics institutes for the production and dissemination of high-quality statistics to monitor the economic, social, environmental and territorial situation.
- Statistics are important for evidence-based decision making in the EU and measure impact of EU initiatives.

### Effective standards

- Provide financial support to organisations that develop European wide standards.
- Standards across Europe ensure that products and services meet an agreed level of quality and safety.

### Tools:

- **Future Single Digital Gateway** providing online administration services for citizens and companies.
- **Internal Market Information System** for information exchange between authorities.
- **Problem solving network SOLVIT** for citizens and businesses.

- **Enhanced partnership between Eurostat, the European Statistics Office, and national statistics institutes, using multiple data sources, advanced data analytics methods, smart systems and digital technologies.**

- **Cooperation between the Commission and European Standardisation Organisations via joint initiatives and action plans.**

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### THE BUDGET

The Commission is proposing a budget of €4 billion (for 2021-2027) for the Single Market Programme. In addition, €2 billion allocated under the InvestEU Fund, in particular through its Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Window, will significantly contribute to the objectives of programme.

**Estimated breakdown of the Single Market Programme:**

- 5% consumers
- 5% standardisation
- 11% Single Market
- 14% statistics
- 24% competitiveness of SMEs
- 41% health

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**€4 billion**