

Decision
approving the opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'For a European Industrial Renaissance'
COM(2014) 14

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of Article 40 of Decision No 11/2011 of the Chamber of Deputies on the working and decision-making procedure for parliamentary supervision of draft legislative acts of the European Union based on the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon on the role of national Parliaments,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this decision:

Sole Article Taking into account Draft Opinion No 4c-19/177 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 13 May 2014,

1. The Chamber of Deputies supports the opinion of the Committee for Industry and Services, according to which the Member States have to acknowledge the vital importance of industry in creating jobs and generating sustainable economic growth, taking into account the priority actions that can be taken at EU level in various political areas, to support the competitiveness of European industry.

2. The Chamber of Deputies notes that the Communication does not envisage any new measures relating to the European industry, but only lists initiatives that are currently under discussion and the adoption of which could have a positive effect on the sectors concerned, and initiatives which have already been adopted and in the case of which a more effective application would also have positive effects on industry. The Communication covers four areas of action:

- an integrated, single European market: creating an attractive place for enterprises and production;
- industrial modernisation: investing in innovation, new technologies, production inputs and skills;
- small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurship;
- internationalisation of EU firms.

3. The Chamber of Deputies notes and endorses the opinion of the Committee for Industry and Services and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, according to which:

- Romania should insist on the need for a strong industrial base in the Union and the continued pursuit of the objective of making industry represent 20% of EU GDP by 2020;
- of the six priorities related to industry, listed in the Communication, those referring to the use of key enabling technologies, the modernisation of manufacturing and advanced

manufacturing, and the development of sectors with high potential (automotive, naval, bio-based products, smart grids) play an important role in enhancing competitiveness;

- it is necessary to support the facilitation of access to funding, in particular for SMEs, by doing more to direct loans towards innovative projects and industrial projects, and by supporting their access to international markets;

- the measures aimed at stimulating investment in new technologies by modernising the legislation on state aid for research & development and innovation, reforming public procurement law and using the COSME and Horizon 2020 programmes, and the structural and cohesion funds;

- Europe needs an energy, environmental and trade policy which should focus on competitive, sustainable and safe goods and take into account the competitive gap relative to its competitors, particularly in respect of energy prices and relocation risks.

4. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges the EU industry's resilience in the face of the economic crisis and recommends maintaining the interest in sustainability and the extensive involvement of high-tech sectors in generating revenues.

5. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges the existence of the weaknesses identified in the Communication, such as weak internal demand, uneven progress in improving the business environment in different countries, inflexible administrative and regulatory environments, rigidities in some labour markets, low investment in research and innovation, higher energy prices than most of our leading competitors, and the risk that they hamper company growth, in particular in the case of SMEs, and economic growth in general.

6. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the proposal to complete the integration of digital, energy and transport networks, which takes into account the following:

- significant investments are required to modernise Europe's energy infrastructure, to connect energy 'islands', enabling flows of energy within the internal market, and enabling EU industry to benefit from more security of supply and lower prices;

- it is necessary to achieve the convergence of information and communication technologies with energy and logistics networks, thus creating new opportunities and challenges for this sector and related services;

- space infrastructures and related industrial and service applications offer the potential to stimulate this sector, generate growth and create jobs in this area.

7. The Chamber of Deputies considers that the functioning of the internal market for services should be further improved by fully implementing the Services Directive, which would significantly improve the smooth operation of the single market, and would be particularly beneficial to small and medium sized countries and consumers.

8. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges that digital technologies are at the heart of increases in the productivity of European industry.

9. The Chamber of Deputies notes and supports the Commission's action aimed at stimulating investment in innovation and new technologies, and welcomes the Horizon 2020 Programme, which will provide close to EUR 80 billion for research and innovation, and the objective of

joining forces with the private sector through public-private partnerships in key industrial domains, so as to leverage further private investment.

10. The Chamber of Deputies is confident that the EUR 100 billion of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), made available under the new multiannual financial framework for 2014-2020, will enable the Member States to finance investment in innovation, in line with the industrial policy priorities, and increasingly concentrate on stimulating investment in strategic industrial sectors.

11. The Chamber of Deputies supports the Commission's position regarding the priorities: advanced manufacturing, key enabling technologies, bio-based products, clean vehicles and vessels, sustainable construction and raw materials, and smart grids and digital infrastructures.

12. The Chamber of Deputies notes that regulatory reforms in financial markets, judicious monetary policies and the new supervisory structures provided by the Banking Union have succeeded in restoring financial stability, but points out that European SMEs are highly dependent on banks, given that the internal market for loans is still fragmented in the EU, and interest rates are still unbalanced. The Chamber of Deputies supports the objective of an internal market for capital where SMEs can have cross-border access to finance.

13. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the positive effects of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, which has assisted financial institutions by providing additional funds, and those of the amounts made available from the Structural Funds in support of enterprises, predominantly SMEs.

14. The Chamber of Deputies recalls the need to find a balance between the Union's desire to open its market and the objective of ensuring fair competition on third-country markets.

15. The Chamber of Deputies calls on the EU Institutions and the Member States to cooperate in implementing the orientations laid down by the European Council at its meeting of 20-21 March 2014 in connection with the 'industrial renaissance', in particular:

- integrating industrial competitiveness across all EU policy areas;
- completing the internal market in goods and services, developing and updating infrastructure networks, including digital networks, encouraging entrepreneurship and stimulating the creation and growth of SMEs;
- enhancing industrial competitiveness through the EU's financial contribution, in particular via the EU's specific instruments;
- enhancing the competitiveness of European industry on international markets with the support of the European Investment Bank;
- addressing skill shortages in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM skills) as a matter of priority, with increased involvement of industry;
- enhancing support in the area of patenting and intellectual property;
- searching for new ways of promoting cleantech;
- reducing energy costs for energy-intensive industries.

16. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges the importance of implementing the provisions of this Communication at national level.

17. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the interest in space infrastructure and related industrial and service applications, but would point out that the Member States' involvement in the development of these new opportunities should pursue the same convergence objectives as in the case of other types of infrastructure of common interest.

18. The Chamber of Deputies stresses that the policy of intervening through subsidies should be more aggressive, in order to achieve the objectives. One proof of the success of a bolder approach is the fact that the states which have adopted a strategy providing more substantial subsidies for electric vehicles have also recorded a greater rate of growth in the number of pieces sold.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 03 June 2014, in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

for the President of the Chamber of Deputies,
Viorel Hrebenciuc

Bucharest, 3 June 2014

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