

Decision
approving the opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee 'A vision for the internal market for industrial products'
COM(2014) 25

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-19/178 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 13 May 2014,

1. 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 this document drafted by the European Commission provides an analysis of the EU regulatory framework in the area of harmonised industrial products, which accounted for 22% of the EU's GDP in 2011. In Romania, as of November 2013, exports of industrial products to the EU represented 63.7% of total exports to the EU.

2. The Chamber of Deputies endorses the opinion of the Committee for Industry and Services and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, in respect of:

- strengthening the regulatory framework and improving the harmonisation legislation in the EU, by means of a Regulation rather than a Directive. However, the decision to use a Regulation should be taken only on a case-by-case basis, depending on national particularities;

- the need for the European Commission to draft guides that would prevent barriers to the free movement of goods as much as possible;

- giving SMEs access to extracts from harmonised standards, free of charge, which would be in line both with EU policies and with national policies aimed at supporting SMEs;

- the transition to the computerisation of market surveillance activities, even though the first stage requires substantial budgetary funds;

- promoting international convergence in connection with standards applying to industrial products, which could contribute to the preservation/strengthening of the EU's industrial competitiveness;

- strengthening the implementation of the harmonised legislation, particularly by strengthening the use of accreditation, which would give the authorities more guarantees as regards the safety of the products placed on the market and related services.

3. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges the importance of a cooperation system aimed at detecting and reporting non-conformities and breaches of the applicable harmonised legislation, such as RAPEX and ICSMS, and of a system of communication and cooperation between SOLVIT, the Enterprise Europe Network, the Internal Market Information System and the Product Contact Points.

4. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the interest in strengthening the network of Product Contact Points set up to implement the Mutual Recognition Regulation, including by expanding their activities to cover harmonised products.

5. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges that strengthening the role of market surveillance bodies and coordination between such bodies in the areas of regulatory interest is beneficial to the good functioning of the internal market, as is the planned harmonisation of the system of economic sanctions for non-compliance with the applicable legislation, and the platform for communication and cooperation between enforcement authorities.

Given that various European professional organisations have informed the Commission that the sanctions for non-compliance with harmonised EU rules are not applied coherently, the Chamber of Deputies welcomes the intention to initiate a legislative proposal on how to streamline and harmonise economic sanctions of an administrative or civil nature for non-compliance with legislation harmonised at EU level for industrial products.

The Chamber of Deputies would point out that, even though this proposal would ensure equal treatment of all businesses throughout the EU market for industrial products, there are concerns that the planned legislative proposal might breach the principle of subsidiarity.

6. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the initiative on 'e-Compliance', which could be used to demonstrate compliance electronically, through e-labelling, digital market surveillance and electronic declarations of conformity.

7. The Chamber of Deputies supports the Commission's intention to promote EU harmonised legislation and technical standards for industrial products also at the international level.

8. The Chamber of Deputies acknowledges the need to ensure that the law keeps up with the pace of current technological and societal challenges.

9. The Chamber of Deputies recognises the need for a strong industrial base in the Union and the continued pursuit of the objective of making industry represent 20% of the EU's GDP by 2020, and undertakes to contribute to the national implementation of the provisions grouped by six priority areas.

10. The Chamber of Deputies supports the application of the orientations laid down by the European Council at its meeting of 20-21 March 2014, in particular:

- integrating industrial competitiveness across all EU policy areas. Member States were invited to match European measures to strengthen competitiveness of industry at national level;
- completing the internal market in goods and services, encouraging entrepreneurship, developing and updating infrastructure networks, including digital networks, 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: Horizon 2020, European structural and investment funds, COSME, etc.;
- 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.

11. The Chamber of Deputies would express its concern at the risks posed by anti-competitive policies that might be used by large enterprises against SMEs in the area of innovation and the digital future, in particular as regards the production of software. The Chamber of Deputies would suggest that the European Commission examine this aspect and propose actions and measures aimed at reducing such risks, as appropriate.

12. The Chamber of Deputies would propose that the next stages of the process of regulating the internal market for industrial products give distinct consideration to products which are frequently used by children but are not specially intended for them, such as mobile phones, tablets, keyboards and other similar products.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 3 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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