

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

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 'Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business'
COM(2015) 550**

Pursuant to Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and Rules 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedure of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

the Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision:

Sole Article. – Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/178, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 29 February 2016, the Chamber of Deputies

1. welcomes the comprehensive and detailed analysis of the current state of the single market and the groundwork undertaken for future strategic and legislative communications in this policy area;
2. stresses that strengthening the competitiveness of the European Union's economy also requires intensified efforts to boost the socio-economic system comprehensively – efforts that will cover more than just jobs and GDP – and takes the view that the primacy of economies of scale can hardly still be promoted today as a prerequisite for economic success;
3. recalls that tax treatment, especially as regards reporting requirements and other procedural issues, should avoid imposing additional administrative and tax burdens on companies carrying out intra-EU transactions;
4. suggests that the analysis of labour mobility should be accompanied by an examination of freedom of enterprise as a form of freedom of capital movement, taking into account the progress achieved through the legislative document currently under approval on European single-member companies;

welcomes the measures intended to support the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and innovative start-ups, and to facilitate their access to financing, as a priority for supporting competitiveness and employment;

5. points out that developments in the field of employment, brought about by technological progress, require a much more flexible and future-oriented approach; in this context, building on the approach put forward in COM(2007) 359 'Towards Common Principles of Flexicurity: More and better jobs through flexibility and security' and on the information derived from those recommendations, takes the view that it would be useful to consider the need for harmonised regulation of issues such as telework and the use of cloud technologies, as well as the new challenges posed by these in terms of equal opportunities and other fundamental cross-cutting principles of the Union;

6. recalls that support for road transport of goods, as referred to in the Communication, must take into account the decoupling of economic development from transport, as provided for in the Union programmes, and the development of new means of transport or transport technologies (electric transport, drones, etc.);
7. recalls that the European single market also includes local markets, whose diversity should be preserved;
8. calls for micro-enterprises to be addressed separately in the development of the single market, as a distinct category of SMEs, and points out that best practices can be found here, such as those relating to fostering entrepreneurship among young people as a way of fighting youth unemployment and to promoting innovative start-ups; it is difficult to imagine a Union support policy that develops identical instruments for medium-sized manufacturers and very small innovative businesses;
9. welcomes the Commission's intention to look at the collaborative economy and hopes that the regulatory measures envisaged will ensure its further development, but that they will also be limited to what is necessary;
10. takes the view that fostering scientific research and innovation in general should remove the obstacles generated by fierce competition, which often becomes discouraging, as in the case of the current Horizon 2020 programme;
11. welcomes the focus on removing the unwanted effects of bankruptcy, and the intention to create an attitude of normality towards bankruptcy; recalls, in this context, that the first option after bankruptcy should always be to set up a new business rather than withdraw from the market, and points out that this means more than the 'second chance' referred to in the document;
12. calls for future analysis of the retail sector to be approached in as balanced a way as possible so as to remove the risk that measures intended to support the establishment of large retailers by standardising authorisation conditions in Member States might unfairly disadvantage small businesses in the field, which are confronted with major difficulties as it is; takes the view that small retailers have a significant part to play in maintaining and revitalising urban centres, and that social and environmental values and functions of urban areas also provide an opportunity for diversifying market supply;
13. notes that, in order to maintain and improve the market in all areas, it is necessary to strike a balance in the allocation of areas for crops intended for use as food, for meadows and pastures, and for various industrial and energy crops;
14. recalls that free competition in the food production sector involves an integrated market that is free of monopolistic situations, the protection of farmers, in particular smaller ones and those involved in small-scale organic farming, and a balance between the interests of farmers and those of middlemen and retailers, for the benefit of the final consumer;

takes the view that, although the reform of the common agricultural policy did take into account the specificities of competition in this sector, it is still necessary to refine the EU rules in the field so as to rectify imbalances and protect consumers, particularly in Member States where farming is individualised, such as Romania;

15. calls for the conservation of soil biodiversity to be included in the analysis of those elements of the single market, such as the retail and road transport sectors, that involve the expansion of built-up areas;
16. calls for the programmes referred to in the Communication to include pioneering goods and services, such as those based on 3D printing, remote sensing and alternative energy;
17. calls for a thorough examination of EU legislation on free competition, and in particular on the measures relating to infringements of competition rules, so as to improve its efficiency, given that, as a consequence of both crisis-induced changes and developments in the EU regulatory framework, the business structure has undergone significant changes in recent years, such as an increase in registrations of European companies (*Societas Europaea*);

calls for a strengthening of the market surveillance capacity, in line with the increasing complexity and diversity of goods and services;

18. notes that the Union legislation on consumer rights should be reviewed in parallel with the market improvement measures to address the challenges posed by the increasing complexity and diversity of goods and services as a result of the social impact of accelerated technical progress; takes the view that it is necessary to step up efforts to combat non-compliant products on the EU market;
19. welcomes the Commission's stated goal of removing obstacles to the functioning of the single market and notes that some of the most difficult barriers that need to be removed are those in the field of banking services, including card and online payments; although every European citizen and every company should be treated similarly by banks and traders, regardless of the Member State of residence, this does not always happen in practice;
20. calls for measures to be introduced at Union level to prevent any form of discrimination in trade based on residence or nationality, particularly in respect of prices and conditions of sale;
21. notes that coordinated implementation of the ambitious proposals put forward by the Commission in the fields of services, regulated professions and single market governance may be challenging for some Member States, including Romania, and calls for the harmonised management mechanism for those fields to be designed in such a way as to minimise the additional administrative burden at national level;
22. reiterates Romania's position on strengthening governance in the field of procurement and on the assessment mechanism for large infrastructure projects;
23. asks the European Commission to pay particular attention to maintaining the free movement of persons and of the workforce, and to ensuring a balanced approach in all initiatives that fall within the scope of the strategy;
24. notes that maintaining and fully complying with the rights and freedoms of the internal market and ensuring fair and non-discriminatory treatment for all European citizens are essential for a fully functional single market;

25. calls for future analyses falling within the scope of the Communication to be given a transatlantic dimension, possibly by including a chapter on their relevance to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 9 March 2016, in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

**PRESIDENT
OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

VALERIU ȘTEFAN ZGONEA

Bucharest, 9 March 2016

No 12.