

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 *Digitising European Industry - Reaping the full benefits of a Digital Single Market* (COM(2016) 180)

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 Articles 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

the Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision:

Sole Article - Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/971, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 14 September 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. calls on the Commission to update the data that served as a basis for its Communication, as some of the studies cited were based on data from 2012, which is a very long ago for this field, and to focus on detailed analytical interpretations of the statistics;
2. recommends that the Commission review the taxation framework for goods and services so as to bring it into line with the changes expected on the ICT market, based on a uniform understanding by Member States of the new types of business;
3. calls on the Commission to act firmly to prevent and remove any market failures that may be caused on the digital single market by the gap between large companies and SMEs, and to encourage the diversification and presence on the market of as many competitive SMEs as possible, also in terms of their geographical distribution;
4. shares the Commission's view that there is a need for an innovative public sector that leads by example in the field of digital transformation, and recommends that support be better adapted to the national particularities of e-government programmes;
5. calls on the Commission to carry out a thorough analysis of innovation in the new economy in order to identify specific regional obstacles to investment in innovation, especially in Member States with limited national and private budgets, so as to implement effective solutions tailored to their situation and to increase the Commission's contribution to removing obstacles and increasing investment financing;
6. calls on the Commission to act firmly to set up a common European framework for increasing multi-disciplinary and digital skills that would be used for allocating additional financial resources to reduce the gap between the demand for and availability of digitally skilled workers;
7. calls on the Commission to act in a resolute and timely manner to prevent the creation and strengthening of oligopolies of data platform suppliers or holders, so as to support SMEs entering the market, strengthen single market mechanisms and prevent abuse of dominant positions;
8. believes that it is too early to conclude, as the Communication does, that the EU can, when necessary, mobilise resources for investment that no Member State could raise on its own, with a leverage effect on private investments that is far beyond the reach of many Member States, and suggests looking into other forms of financing;

9. takes the view that if 90% of SMEs feel that they are lagging behind in terms of innovation, they need significant support, and calls on the Commission to update its SME strategies, also by identifying the reasons for such lagging behind, especially where this happens at Member State level;
10. is concerned about the problems arising in relation to innovation strategies, such as the fact that their approach is too general, they lack focus on economic change and are drafted in the absence of an entrepreneurial discovery process, and calls on the Commission to act and propose a specific course of action and concrete guidelines at EU level, adapted to economic realities and closely linked to market demand;
11. points out that financial support and guidance by the EU must continue with the same intensity for traditional sectors of the economy, such as agriculture, also as regards direct support and scientific research, which requires financial resources to be allocated in as efficient and balanced a manner as possible, including at regional level;
12. points out the potential of smart specialisation in creating jobs and opportunities for young people, and calls for concerted, firm action to be taken at European level to capitalise on such opportunities in as many fields as possible, especially since the new generation possesses ITC knowledge acquired at an early age;
13. notes that SMEs and the private initiative are an important resource for promoting innovation due to their flexibility and versatility, and takes the view that when supporting, encouraging and launching public-private partnerships for large investments, for example in the field of components for the Internet of Things, high performance computing and connected and automated vehicles, concrete measures should also be taken to avoid the negative impact on SME innovativeness and prevent the risk of oligopolies;
14. supports the Commission's efforts to standardise and regulate the Internet of Things and 5G, cloud computing and data technologies, and points out that malware phenomena should be countered effectively and in time, as they could experience a massive expansion with new technologies, and that some of them, such as ransomware, require concerted action, including policing, at EU level;
15. stresses that structural changes brought about on the labour market and in the nature of work by digital transformation are not just a cause for concern in terms of employment conditions, income levels and income distribution, but also an opportunity to diversify the labour market, to create new jobs and promote youth entrepreneurship, provided that obstacles are removed and regulatory gaps are corrected at EU level;
16. calls on the Commission to launch a debate at European level to identify all potential training opportunities both for students and for adults, in skills needed to exploit the potential of digital transformation in all aspects of social and professional life; suggests exploring, in this context, self-training and individual learning by attending courses on the free market or open courses provided by educational establishments and online learning platforms;

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 20 September 2016 in compliance with Article 16(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Florin Iordache

Bucharest, 20 September 2016.