

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 *Online Platforms and the Digital Single Market - Opportunities and Challenges for Europe* (COM(2016) 288)

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-19/976, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 14 September 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. supports the approach proposed in the Communication, in which the EU aims to fully embrace a digital future while preserving its common values;
2. supports the principle that regulation should be restricted to what is necessary as regards the activity of online platforms and recalls that, given the speed of technological progress in the field, any new rules that are adopted should be applicable also to the most likely future scenarios so as to ensure legal stability and prevent their premature obsolescence;
3. points out that the expansion of online platforms causes comparatively more significant difficulties in less developed countries than in the more advanced economies, for instance in terms of the lower competitiveness of local and traditional companies compared to their global competitors or their limited capacity to invest in innovation, and calls on the Commission to consider this specific vulnerability when drafting the European regulatory framework in the field;
4. stresses that most online platforms operate on the global market and that EU regulations should therefore reflect, where possible, the positive effects of this new business model; EU investment should be promoted to that end, also as regards its balanced regional distribution;
5. notes that the development of online platforms creates fewer jobs than traditional competitors and that this impact should be counterbalanced by measures such as fostering private initiative in the field and adapting employment regulations;
6. notes that online platforms have made workers' access to communications easier and cheaper, which in many cases means a working environment away from the office, stimulating telework or changing day-to-day working conditions, and calls on the Commission to examine the impact that this has on the EU employment regulatory framework with a view to amending it if necessary;

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 20 September 2016 in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Florin Iordache

Bucharest, 20 September 2016.

No 73