

TRANSLATION

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

DECISION adopting the opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions

on Delivering the Single Market Agenda for Jobs, Growth and Investment

COM(2016) 361

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 Rules 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-19/977, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 6 September 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Welcomes this Communication because:

- the European Commission is reporting on a series of measures concerning the following: sustaining the economic recovery and the single market for jobs and growth, and delivering the Single Market Agenda;
- it presents the state of play regarding the Single Market Agenda, the Single Market Strategy, the Digital Single Market Strategy and the Single Capital Market Strategy and identifies those areas where strategic political decisions are urgently needed to strengthen and accelerate the necessary reforms;
- it reiterates the importance of completing the Single Market to create jobs, growth and an attractive investment climate;
- it emphasises the need to make swift progress in implementing the Single Market Strategy, the Digital Single Market Strategy and the Capital Markets Union Action Plan;
- it provides a full picture of the implementation of the provisions in the Single Market Agenda;
- it identifies those areas where strategic political decisions are needed to strengthen and accelerate the necessary reforms;
- it pursues measures to build a Capital Markets Union while at the same time enhancing the existing legislative framework for financial services;
- it refers to the fact that the success of the Single Market Agenda will depend on decisive action by co-legislators as regards firm support and the swift adoption of measures decided by the Commission, and the introduction at national level of complementary measures in terms of transposition, application and monitoring.

2. We welcome the Commission's proposal because:

- it states that, in order to support investments in the wider economy, it is essential to reach agreement on securitisation as a matter of urgency and to achieve rapid progress on the proposal regarding the prospectus regime;
- it presents measures and guidelines that are essential for developing the banking, markets and insurance sectors with a view to: speeding up the transposition of the securitisation package, drafting a new framework to unlock financing for small companies, reviewing the Capital Requirements Regulation to reduce risk weightings for infrastructure projects for banks and amending venture capital legislation in order to build up scale, diversity and choice, thereby enabling more companies to benefit from this alternative source of funding, and in order to improve the current legislative framework for financial services and avoid overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies or disproportionate burdens;
- states that combined efforts are required at EU and national level to tackle regulatory and administrative barriers hampering financial services and markets, all of which affects growth and innovation by reducing choice and raising prices for consumers;
- the Commission has launched public consultations on all the measures involved, encouraging interested European citizens and institutions to participate and thus to contribute directly to the legislative process and provide added value in this way;
- it proposes and promotes the establishment of a simple, modern VAT system progressively less vulnerable to fraud and aimed at reducing the administrative burden in order to improve cross-border trade and hence to meet the demands of consumers and entrepreneurs;
- it reiterates the fact that the proper transposition and implementation of EU rules is a prerequisite for ensuring that citizens can enjoy the benefits of the Single Market.

3. We believe that:

- strengthening the economy and boosting investment to create jobs is the top priority at EU level;
- it is vitally necessary to continue the efforts on structural reform, responsible fiscal policies and investment;
- it is essential to consolidate the partnership between the European Commission and Member States to ensure the smart, targeted and efficient implementation of legislation; consequently, we support the revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation Regulation in relation to e-commerce;
- this document will enhance the incentive to continue efforts to consolidate and speed up reforms from the point of view of the common commitment taken on by Member States, and in particular with a view to the application at national level of measures arising from the Single Market Strategy, the Digital Single Market Strategy and the Capital Markets Union Action Plan.

4. We take the view that:

- it is necessary to launch a legislative proposal to improve the functioning of the notification procedure for services, in order to further enhance transparency on new measures supported by Member States in the field of services;
- sustainable jobs must be created, and increased economic competitiveness and a more attractive environment for investors must be promoted by ensuring better interaction between the EU and the

national and regional dimensions in order to remove barriers to investment and pursue structural reform;

- compliance costs must be reduced by increasing legal certainty and streamlining rules which will boost cross-border trade and encourage new investments;

- as regards the ban on unjustified geo-blocking, we welcome the European Commission's approach to the removal of barriers to cross-border online activity in Europe, because the stopping of unjustified geo-blocking and other forms of geographical discrimination will have a positive impact on consumers who currently have only restricted access to certain internet sites because of differentiated treatment;

- the following are necessary: the introduction of a services passport, an analysis of the way in which retail financial services operate in Member States and proposals to adopt relevant measures;

- we must underline the importance of the services passport in facilitating access by professionals to the cross-border labour market in Europe;

- procedures and cooperation must be intensified between the Commission and Member States in order to apply the new General Data Protection Regulation;

- the document deals superficially with the social dimension of the Single Market, taking into account only aspects relating to unfair competition (greater attention should be paid to fake self-employment activities and undeclared work).

5. From the point of view of Romania:

- we wish to reiterate Romania's position in support of the European Union's general objective of deepening the internal market with a view to boosting economic growth, generating new jobs and supporting the achievement of the Single Market Agenda;

- increased attention will be focused on ensuring the effective and balanced implementation of measures aimed at avoiding additional bureaucracy and taking into account the national situation of each Member State;

- the Digital Single Market is extremely worthwhile; consequently, the objectives in this area are a priority for Romania: to develop high-speed internet infrastructure, promote e-commerce and ensure access for all citizens to quality national and cross-border online services;

- it is important to ensure connectivity in all regions of the EU while at the same time developing reliable and affordable high-speed networks and services, as well as increased digital competence;

- there should be more focus on partnerships for innovation and research, and on reducing the development gap between different EU regions;

- we are in favour of introducing the services passport as this is an instrument that would facilitate the mobility of service providers in other Member States; .

- we agree with the approach of revising the Mutual Recognition Regulation in view of the difficulties encountered by Member State authorities in demonstrating the equivalence of security (safety) levels of producers not covered by EU legislation, difficulties which restrict the free movement of producers;

- efforts must be made to cooperate in the implementation of the proposed measures and to pay greater attention to the Investment Plan for Europe by identifying strategic projects which can be financed in line with the European Commission proposal to extend the European Fund for Strategic Investments until after 2018.

The Chamber of Deputies supports the European Commission Communication on Delivering the Single Market Agenda for Jobs, Growth and Investment because the Single Market is a valuable resource on which the current and future economic prosperity of the European Union depends. Moreover, it identifies areas in which strategic political decisions need to be adopted to consolidate and speed up the necessary reforms; the measures will be in line with the calls to strengthen the Single Market, with the conclusions of the European Council of March 2016 and with the Annual Growth Surveys and the country-specific recommendations.

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.

THE PRESIDENT

OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

Florin IORDACHE

Bucharest, 20 September 2016 No 78.