



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, June 24, 2020

Courtesy translation

OPINION of the SENATE of ROMANIA

on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Identifying and addressing barriers to the Single Market COM(2020) 93 final

The Romanian Senate examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Identifying and addressing barriers to the Single Market - COM(2020) 93 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no. 1).

Taking into account the report of June 15, 2020 of the Committee for European Affairs, **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session of June 23, 2020, considers that:

1. The removal of the barriers analysed in this Communication comes to correctly apply the European single market legislation and to prevent the indirect protectionism measures maintained by certain states;
2. Even if SMEs can benefit from a well-functioning market, the barrier-free market cannot solve the problems they face; the problems are related to access to finance and competition from much larger companies, which have the advantage of large-scale production;
3. The single market must be regulated in such a way that eliminates distortions. Some restrictions are imposed to protect strategic areas or sectors at national level, or for reasons of social protection; it is recommended that facilities be granted in order to enable SMEs hurdled in overcoming competitive barriers to enter the market, given their important role in job creation and the development of the communities in which they operate;
4. The European Union's industrial strategy, accompanied by a specific strategy for small and medium-sized enterprises, is needed. However, digital and ecological transformation is not enough. Decently paid jobs, as well as reducing dependence on third-country suppliers for goods on which the safety of the population depends, calls for a process of

reindustrialisation, given the new technologies - green and smart - of the European Union;

5. Romania is particularly interested in the future of SMEs, which represent most of the domestic capital and employ most of the employees;
6. The positive results in improving the functioning of the single market depend on a number of factors, including available resources, political will, changes in the digital age, environmental conditions and societal pressure for social developments;
7. The removal of the competitive barriers imposed by large entrepreneurs on the entry of small producers and the efficient functioning of the competent competition authorities have a key role to play;
8. The new industrial strategy and related public policy documents require adjustments to the experience of the COVID-19 epidemic, which affects all states, and draws attention to the need for European Union action in areas considered to be the responsibility of governments, such as funding public health systems, and preparing the necessary professional personnel; the new requirements included in the European Social Pillar are to be taken into account in the strategy adjustments.
9. Stimulating domestic demand by reducing inequalities within our societies can contribute to the development of the SME market. Romania has a large part of the industrial sector at this level, and the lack of appropriate measures has a negative effect on increasing the share of the industrial sector in GDP.

p. President of the Senate
Robert-Marius CAZANCIUC

