

Appendix 2

Reasoned opinion of the Riksdag

First, the Riksdag wants to point out that it welcomes the Commission's efforts to further strengthen competitiveness among small and medium-sized enterprises.

However, the Riksdag is of the opinion that parts of the proposal concerning action aimed at improving enterprises' access to markets inside the Union and globally are not compliant with the principle of subsidiarity. As regards the Commission's proposal to promote the exports of small and medium-sized enterprises, there is, in the view of the Government, no real European added value in relation to the national trade promotion measures already taken. The Riksdag agrees with this and considers that the EU should not expand its measures in this area as this would entail a duplication of effort. The Commission's primary role in the field of trade policy is to contribute to increased free trade and to safeguard well-functioning and open trade regulations between the EU and other countries. In addition to work to prevent trade barriers, this means that promotion measures should primarily focus on the markets where member states do not carry out trade promotion themselves.

The Riksdag therefore finds that the part of the Commission's proposal concerning trade promotion measures is not compliant with the principle of subsidiarity.