

Citizens' summary

Single Market Act II

Together for new growth

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- A whole generation of EU citizens has enjoyed the benefits of being able to study, live, shop, work and retire in any EU country. For 20 years, the European single market has enabled EU businesses to sell their goods and services to a huge customer base – currently 500 million consumers.

For consumers, this has resulted in more choice and lower prices. And for businesses, more opportunities to grow.

- From 1992 to 2008 the single market generated an extra 2.8 million jobs and an additional 2.1% in GDP.
- But, the single market is not yet complete. It must respond to a constantly changing set of social, demographic and technological pressures – so it can continue to deliver growth, jobs and social cohesion
- In 2010, the first Single Market Act proposed a set of 50 actions, which are now being adopted by the European Parliament and national ministers in the EU Council.

In 2012, in the Single Market Act II, the Commission identifies 12 key actions to promote further development.

WHAT IS THE EU PROPOSING?

The Commission has identified a series of key actions which will boost growth, employment and social cohesion in the EU:

Developing fully integrated networks

1. **Rail transport** – improve quality of service and prices for rail passengers across the EU
2. **Maritime transport** – create a single market for sea transport to simplify the shipping of goods
3. **Air transport** – enhance the safety, efficiency and environmental performance of air travel
4. **Energy** – further integrate the EU energy market to provide better service to consumers at affordable prices, promote renewable energy & energy efficiency and guarantee security of supply

Fostering mobility of citizens and businesses across borders

5. **Individual mobility** – help people to look for jobs in other EU countries via an EU-wide electronic recruitment, placement and job matching tool
6. **Access to finance** – create new investment vehicles to make it easier for people to invest in long-term projects in the real economy
7. **Business environment** – modernise insolvency rules to ease cross-border procedures and, ultimately, help businesses to survive. And when they don't, offer entrepreneurs a second chance

Supporting the digital economy across Europe

8. **Services** – support online services by making electronic payments more efficient

9. **Digital single market** – give as many individuals and businesses as possible access to high-speed communication infrastructures
10. **Electronic invoicing** – promote electronic invoicing by making it compulsory for the purchase of goods and services by public authorities (public procurement)

Strengthening social entrepreneurship, cohesion and consumer confidence/non-discrimination

11. **Consumers** – improve the safety of products through more coherent rules and better enforcement
12. **Social cohesion** – ensure all EU citizens access to a basic bank account, ensure that banking fees are transparent, make it easier for people to switch banks

WHO WILL BENEFIT?

- **European consumers, students, job-seekers, workers and pensioners**
- **Companies** will benefit from the removal of obstacles to doing business on the single market
- **Public administration** – in terms of public-spending savings and smarter service provision

WHAT NEXT?

- The 12 key actions are spelled out in "The Single Market Act II: Together for New Growth".
- The Commission is committed to delivering all key legislative proposals by spring 2013 and all non-legislative actions by the end of that year at the latest.
- Legislative proposals should be fast-tracked by the European Parliament and national ministers in the EU Council and adopted as a priority by spring 2014, ahead of the Parliamentary recess.