Industry and international industrial competitiveness: Community action programme

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The Committee adopted the report by Mr Wilfried KUCKELKORN (PSE, D) on the implementation of an action programme for a policy on industrial competitiveness. The main aims of the action programme were: - to promote the intangible aspects of competitiveness - to free businesses (particularly SMEs) from all unnecessary legal constraints and administrative procedures - to ensure fair competition - to strengthen industrial cooperation. The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee adopted 26 amendments. These focused on the importance of social relations and the dialogue between the two sides of industry and attached greater priority to promoting intangible investments. In this respect the promotion of human resources was put forward as one of the opportunities presented by the information society. There were also provisions for special attention to be paid to the employment of women and to the role played by SMEs. The introduction of structures for promoting dialogue, such as the participation of workers in the running of companies, was highlighted as an important element for sustainable economic growth. The Commission was criticized for the lack of priorities and absence of a financial assessment in its proposal and was called on to identify the priority actions together with the financial impact and the results which could really be anticipated from the measures being proposed.