Internal market in the new Member States: situation, opportunities and lessons to be learnt

2004/2155(INI) - 28/04/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on an own-initiative report drafted by Magorzata Maria HANDZLIK (EPP-ED, PL) on the internal market in the new Member States. (Please refer to the document of 16/03/2005.) Parliament suggested that, in addition to the timely and correct transposition and effective application of Internal Market directives, Member States should also carry out a screening of their existing domestic legislation for compatibility with EU rules, in aid of the process of removing market barriers and opening up competition in the Internal Market.

Parliament called on the national authorities of the new Member States to improve their administrative capacity so to reduce the gap between formal compliance and actual enforcement of Community legislation.

On the question of patent protection, Parliament called on the Council, in view of the critical importance of ensuring intellectual property protection for inventions involving digital technology, to work more closely with the European Parliament on the approval of a new patent measure that will provide a secure framework for the patentability of technical inventions in this field.

Parliament asked the new Member States to ensure that out-of-court settlement instruments and problem-solving instruments, such as SOLVIT, receive proper financial support for their operation in order to ensure that European undertakings have tools at their disposal to solve the problems they might encounter following the development of the Internal Market.

Finally, Parliament stated its conviction that updates on the status of transposition should be made available more often. These updates should complement the Internal Market Scoreboard and be used to create a name and shame list of all the Member States who are lagging behind in the transposition process. The Scoreboard should be upgraded to European Council level and be recognised on a political level as the main point of reference for the status of transposition.