Basic information

2015/2089(INI) INI - Own-initiative procedure	Procedure completed
Towards improved single market regulation **Subject** 2 Internal market, single market 8.50.02 Legislative simplification, coordination, codification	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	VAN BOSSUYT Anneleen (ECR)	21/01/2015
	Shadow rapporteur CORAZZA BILDT Anna Maria (PPE) SCHALDEMOSE Christel (S&D) TØRNÆS Ulla (ALDE) DE JONG Dennis (GUE/NGL) ŠOLTES Igor (Verts/ALE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Economic and Financial Affairs	MOSCOVICI Pierre

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
30/04/2015	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
23/09/2015	Vote in committee		
01/10/2015	Committee report tabled for plenary	A8-0278/2015	Summary

11/04/2016	Debate in Parliament		
12/04/2016	Decision by Parliament	T8-0105/2016	Summary
12/04/2016	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/04/2016	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2015/2089(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	IMCO/8/03048

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE557.205	18/05/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE557.282	09/06/2015	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE565.138	04/09/2015	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A8-0278/2015	01/10/2015	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T8-0105/2016	12/04/2016	Summary

Towards improved single market regulation

2015/2089(INI) - 12/04/2016 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 387 votes to 293 with 26 abstentions, a resolution entitled "Towards improved single market regulation".

More than 20 years after its official creation, the single market framework is still fragmented, in particular because the Member States have not fully transposed or correctly implemented EU legislation

Parliament stressed need to strengthen the governance of the single market and to base the forthcoming internal market strategy should be aimed at improving single market regulation through an effort to learn from the experiences of the past in the areas of free movement of goods and services, the digital single market, professional qualifications and public procurement.

The single market, a key tool for reigniting economic growth and job creation in the Union: Members consider that improving single market regulation should be **both a priority and a shared responsibility** of the EU institutions.

The report however emphasises that improving single market regulation **does not mean removing all regulation or diminishing the level of ambition of regulation**, for instance in terms of environmental protection, safety, security, consumer protection and social standards. Rather, it means removing unnecessary regulation, bureaucracy and negative impacts while achieving policy objectives and delivering a competitive regulatory environment that supports employment and enterprise within Europe.

From this perspective, Members made the following general observations:

- **"better regulation"** should be seen in the context of the whole policy cycle, whereby all elements contribute to efficient and effective regulation; specific indicators for **measuring the success of relevant legislation** should be used throughout the whole policy cycle;
- the principle of **subsidiarity** must represent the starting point for policy formulation, so as to underline "European added value" in the governance of the single market; the principle of proportionality is reflected in the drafting of the relevant legislation;
- **national parliaments** themselves could play a more active role, particularly in consultation processes;
- **simplification** should be an ongoing process, as efforts in these areas are of benefit to consumers and SMEs;
- single market regulation should take into account the new opportunities afforded by the **digital revolution**;
- the Commission should strengthen the role of the single market as a separate pillar of the **European Semester process**.

Tools to improve single market regulation:

- Impact assessment: Parliament viewed effective impact assessments as an important tool for **informing policymakers about how best to design regulation** to achieve these EU objectives, that is, to promote competitiveness, innovation, growth and job creation. It considered it regrettable that around 40 % of draft impact assessments examined by the Commission Impact Assessment Board from 2010 to 2014 were considered to be of insufficient quality and were sent back for improvements. It considered it regrettable that impact assessments submitted to Parliament to accompany draft proposals were still found to have shortcomings.

In order to be effective tools, impact assessments should:

- be prepared on the basis of comprehensive, objective and complete information and evidence, and should include all options which have a significant impact or are politically important;
- be conducted in such a way as to also take account of ex-post assessments of existing legislation in the same sector;
- take account of scientific advice;
- be supplemented by impact assessments on substantial amendments adopted by the co-legislators;
- give consideration to consistency between a new legislative initiative and the other policies and general objectives of the European Union;
- take into account the pace of digital innovation and evolution and the need for legislation to be technology-neutral and as future-proof as possible.

Members stressed the need for REFIT proposals to be more targeted, with potential benefits and cost savings being quantified in each proposal.

-The consultation process: Parliament recalled its position that the consultation process should be open, transparent and inclusive and expanded to reach out to SMEs and start-ups and civil society organisations. It called on the Commission to consider establishing a **European Stakeholder Forum** on better regulation and less bureaucracy.

-Monitoring and problem-solving: Parliament encouraged the Commission and Member States to:

- raise awareness of **alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and online dispute resolution (ODR)** as key tools for improving the single market for goods and services, and publicise one-stop shops in support of dispute resolution, along the lines of **SOLVIT, ECC-Net and FIN-Net**,
- improve the services offered by the **EU Pilot projects**, which are designed to avert the need for the Commission to institute infringement proceedings against Member States;
- continue to expand the Internal Market Information System (IMI) to other single market tools so that it can become a central information hub;
- explore the possibility of establishing a **single point of contact for consumers** and foster understanding of consumer rights in areas such as e-commerce and the recognition of qualifications;
- consider whether an **"early warning system"** could be created that signals where problems exist in the implementation or application of EU law.

-Enforcement and market surveillance: the resolution recommended:

- closer cooperation between single market governance tools that receive **consumer complaints** about traders breaching EU legislation;
- **launching timely and faster infringement proceedings** where evidence exists to demonstrate a failure in implementation and where reasonable efforts to solve problems have failed;
- using **market surveillance tools** in conjunction with single market tools.

Members considered it regrettable that **Parliament's access to relevant information** relating to pre-infringement and infringement proceedings is limited, and called for improved transparency in this area.

-Ex-post evaluation and review: Parliament considered, however, that analysis regarding REFIT should be improved as to whether the legislative steps taken so far have contributed effectively to achieving their aim and are consistent with current policy goals. It welcomed the Commission's commitment to examining the cumulative cost of regulation, which often represents a barrier for participants in the single market, particularly SMEs.

Members are of the view that **sunset or enhanced review clauses** may be considered on an exceptional basis, in particular for temporary phenomena, with the institutions undertaking to keep legislation up to date and in place only where necessary.

Towards improved single market regulation

2015/2089(INI) - 01/10/2015 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection adopted an own-initiative report by Anneleen VAN BOSSUYT (ECR, BE), entitled "Towards improved single market regulation".

The single market, a key tool for reigniting economic growth and job creation in the Union: Members consider that improving single market regulation should be both a **priority and a shared responsibility** of the EU institutions.

The report however emphasises that improving single market regulation does **not mean removing all regulation or diminishing the level of ambition of regulation**, for instance in terms of environmental protection, safety, security, consumer protection and social standards. It rather means removing unnecessary regulation, bureaucracy and negative impacts while achieving policy objectives and delivering a competitive regulatory environment that supports employment and enterprise within Europe.

From this perspective, Members made the following general observations:

- **"better regulation"** should be seen in the context of the whole policy cycle, whereby all elements contribute to efficient and effective regulation;;
- the principle of **subsidiarity** must represent the starting point for policy formulation, so as to underline "European added value" in the governance of the single market; the principle of **proportionality** is reflected in the drafting of the relevant legislation;
- **simplification** should be an ongoing process, as efforts in these areas are of benefit to consumers and SMEs;
- single market regulation should take into account the new opportunities afforded by the **digital revolution**;
- the Commission should strengthen the role of the single market as a separate pillar of the **European Semester** process.

Tools to improve single market regulation:

- ***Impact assessment***: Members view effective impact assessments as an important tool for informing policymakers about how best to design regulation to achieve these EU objectives, that is, to promote competitiveness, innovation, growth and job creation. They considered it regrettable that around 40 % of draft impact assessments examined by the Commission Impact Assessment Board from 2010 to 2014 were considered to be of insufficient quality and were sent back for improvements.

In order to be effective tools, impact assessments should:

- be prepared on the basis of comprehensive, objective and complete information and evidence, and should include all options which have a significant impact or are politically important;
- be conducted in such a way as to also take account of ex-post assessments of existing legislation in the same sector;
- take account of scientific advice;
- give consideration to consistency between a new legislative initiative and the other policies and general objectives of the European Union
- take into account the pace of digital innovation and evolution and the need for legislation to be technology-neutral and as future-proof as possible.

Members stressed the need for REFIT proposals to be more targeted, with potential benefits and cost savings being quantified in each proposal.

- ***Monitoring and problem-solving***: Members encouraged the Commission and Member States to:

- raise awareness of **alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and online dispute resolution (ODR)** as key tools for improving the single market for goods and services;
- develop complementarities between one-stop shops in support of dispute resolution, along the lines of **SOLVIT, ECC-Net and FIN-Net**;
- improve the services offered by the **EU Pilot** projects, which are designed to avert the need for the Commission to institute infringement proceedings against Member States;
- continue to expand the **Internal Market Information System (IMI)** to other single market tools so that it can become a central information hub;
- explore the possibility of establishing a **single point of contact for consumers** and foster understanding of consumer rights in areas such as e-commerce and the recognition of qualifications;
- consider whether an **"early warning system"** could be created that signals where problems exist in the implementation or application of EU law.

- ***Enforcement and market surveillance***: the report recommended:

- closer cooperation between single market governance tools that receive **consumer complaints** about traders breaching EU legislation and national enforcement bodies via formal procedures and improved data sharing;
- **launching timely and faster infringement proceedings** where evidence exists to demonstrate a failure in implementation and where reasonable efforts to solve problems through tools such as mediation have failed;
- using market surveillance tools in conjunction with single market tools to strengthen the enforcement of EU law.

Members considered it regrettable that **Parliament's access to relevant information** relating to pre-infringement and infringement proceedings is limited, and called for improved transparency in this area, with due respect for confidentiality rules.

Parliament should fulfil its role in the enforcement of EU legislation, inter alia by reviewing the implementation of legislation and exercising scrutiny of the Commission, in particular through an engagement on the part of Parliament with annual reporting by the Commission.

- ***Ex-post evaluation and review***: Members welcomed the regular review period and the introduction of sectoral analysis under the REFIT programme - the ultimate aim of which should be to improve the quality of EU legislation and simplify it - thus aligning it more effectively with the needs of citizens and undertakings, with particular reference to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

They considered, however, that **analysis should be improved** as to whether the legislative steps taken so far have contributed effectively to achieving their aim and are consistent with current policy goals.

Members are of the view that **sunset or enhanced review clauses** may be considered on an exceptional basis, in particular for temporary phenomena, with the institutions undertaking to keep legislation up to date and in place only where necessary.