

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

Approved at the 46th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee,

in Liechtenstein on 19 May 2016

(Pursuant to Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure)

adopted by written procedure

Resolution on the Single Market Strategy for Goods and Services

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Daniel Dalton, Member of the European Parliament, United Kingdom, (ECR)

Mr Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Member of the Icelandic Parliament, (Independence Party)

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA JPC):

- A. Having regard to Article 1 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), enshrining the objective of a homogeneous EEA in which there is free movement of goods, persons, services and capital;
- B. Having regard to Article 102 EEA, which lays down the requirement of incorporation of EU acquis into the EEA Agreement as closely as possible to the adoption by the European Union of the corresponding new EU legislation with a view to permitting simultaneous application of the latter;
- C. Having regard to Article 26 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which stipulates that “the internal market shall comprise an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties”;
- D. Having regard to the Commission Communication entitled “Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business” of 28 October 2015 (COM(2015) 550 final);
- E. Having regard to the European Parliament Resolution on Making the Internal Energy Market Work;
- F. Having regard to the European Parliament study of January 2016 entitled “Mapping the Cost of Non-Europe, 2014-19”;
- G. Having regard to the EEA JPC Resolution of 26 March 2014 on Single Market Governance;
- H. Having regard to the EEA EFTA Comments on the forthcoming Internal Market Strategy for Goods and Services (16 July 2015), Better Regulation (28 September 2015) and the public consultation on the evaluation and review of regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services (26 November 2015);
- I. Having regard to the conclusions of the 44th meeting of the EEA Council (Brussels, 17 November 2015);
- J. Whereas the Single Market has proved to be a key driver for economic growth in the EEA for 20 years;
- K. Whereas a well-functioning and effective Single Market, based on a highly competitive social market economy, is needed to boost growth and competitiveness and to create jobs to revitalise the European economy;

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1. Underlines its commitment to a well-functioning Single Market as a key driver in boosting economic growth and jobs throughout Europe;
2. Welcomes the release of the Single Market Strategy for Goods and Services of October 2015, and notes the strategy's objective to deliver a deeper and fairer Single Market;
3. Notes all the initiatives under the three pillars of the strategy, namely (i) creating opportunities for consumers, professionals and businesses, (ii) encouraging and enabling modernisation and innovation in Europe, and (iii) ensuring practical delivery that benefits consumers and businesses;
4. Acknowledges that the Single Market needs new reforms to realise new potential and to adapt regulation to changing economic, social and technical developments, but welcomes at the same time the strategy's holistic approach to finding alternative solutions to improve the Single Market without issuing new regulations;
5. Welcomes efforts to identify and examine unjustified or disproportionate regulatory and non-regulatory restrictions, as emphasised in the Better Regulation Agenda and the REFIT Programme;
6. Urges that future regulatory harmonisation should not bring about unnecessary administrative and regulatory burdens;
7. Underlines that future actions which follows from the strategy should be in line with the climate goals adopted at COP21 and standards in areas such as health, environment, consumer protection and food safety;
8. Notes that the Single Market for Goods is currently very advanced, but recognises that there is still room for improvement;
9. Calls for increasing awareness and knowledge of the principle of mutual recognition among national authorities and businesses, and welcomes the inclusion of this principle in the strategy;
10. Notes the need to develop the Single Market for Services further and supports the development of European standards also in the services sector;
11. At the same time considers that better application of existing tools and principles is a better option than further harmonisation at EU level;
12. Notes the ongoing work regarding services passports and intends to follow the development of this work closely;
13. Calls on the EEA EFTA States and relevant stakeholders to take part in public consultation exercises on the Single Market, given that many of the initiatives have an impact on the EEA EFTA States, and expresses its intention to monitor the initiatives of the strategy closely as they are proposed.