

Stakeholders' consultation on the "Single Market Programme"

11.09.2018 | 13:30 – 15:00 | room JDE 51

European Committee of the Regions, rue Belliard 99-101, 1040 Brussels

Some suggested issues and questions

Scope and coherence of the Single Market Programme

The proposed programme is very wide ranging. Are all its elements strictly necessary for ensuring a properly-functioning internal market? Could/should some components form separate programmes e.g. statistics, competitiveness and SMEs? Is there a risk that such a widely-scoped programme will prove difficult to coordinate? What governance arrangements will be needed in order to ensure the necessary synergies?

Would a stand-alone programme provide a better framework for boosting the competitiveness of European enterprises in an age of rapid technological change and proliferation of new business models? Does moving the SME financing elements to the new InvestEU Fund create risks of fragmentation?

Internal market governance tools

There is a need for easily accessible instruments by which citizens and businesses can be informed of the applicable rules and their rights, submit complaints and seek redress where their rights have been infringed. These instruments must have clear branding, visibility and presence on the ground. The very low levels of awareness quoted by the Commission might indicate that some of these instruments, which have been established for some time, are not operating as effectively as they might. How can the situation be improved in the context of the new programme? Is some streamlining and rebranding needed in the context of the new programme in order to create more effective instruments for citizens and businesses?

Internal market for services

Services are one very important area where the single market remains incomplete. How can the new programme contribute to helping remove remaining barriers in services? How can the internal market governance tools be deployed more effectively to ensure more integrated services markets?

European Enterprise Network (EEN)

The EEN is an important mechanism for implementing the competitiveness and SMEs' component of the programme. The network has been established and functioning for some time. In view of the new

challenges for SMEs, how can the network and its activities be adapted so that they are better attuned to the requirements of enterprises in the age of digitalization and globalization? How can the uptake of innovation by SMEs be boosted in the context of the proposed programme?

Withdrawal of the UK from the European Union

The Single Market Programme will be open to EEA member states and selected third countries. As an exiting member state, the UK will be in a unique situation, with an economy that will continue to be deeply enmeshed with that of the EU. What implications is Brexit likely to have from the point of view of ensuring the proper functioning of the internal market? Is the proposed programme sufficiently adaptable to ensure a flexible response in this context?

Financial envelope

Is the proposed financial envelope adequate in view of the challenges associated with ensuring a properly-functioning internal market and the important tasks that will be attributed to the Single Market Programme?

Public procurement

The proposed programme envisages an array of measures to ensure a wider uptake of strategic public procurement, more professionalism and the digital transformation of procurement, as well as improved access to procurement markets for SMEs. In this context, what are the priorities from the perspective of local and regional authorities, which are among the most important public procurers?