



Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

2017/0000(INI)

5.9.2017

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the Report on Competition Policy 2016
(2017/0000(INI))

Rapporteur: Christel Schaldemose

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Recalls that competition policy is closely interlinked with taxation policy; encourages the Commission to strengthen its efforts to tackle illegal state aid and taxation rules that distort competition in the internal market;
2. Supports the Commission's investigations into anti-competitive practices such as selective tax advantages or excess profit ruling systems; emphasises that if there is to be a well-functioning internal market all players need to pay their fair share of tax;
3. Acknowledges the Commission's efforts to combat unfair competition in high-profile cases against well-known companies, but stresses that the enforcement of fair competition in the case of SMEs is also of the utmost importance;
4. Encourages the Commission to strengthen the supervision of national implementation of competition policy; is concerned that uneven enforcement of EU competition law by national authorities can result in varying outcomes, thus distorting competition in the internal market; welcomes in this regard the Commission's proposal on the ECN+;
5. Reiterates the possible option of setting up a travelling unit within the Commission which, independently of Member States' efforts, would need be able to investigate suspected cases of unfair competition and breaches of competition law;
6. Highlights the importance of access to justice for consumers and of the availability for collective redress in order to ensure fair competition; underlines that the absence of such opportunities weakens competition at the expense of the internal market and consumer rights;
7. Recalls that if anti-competitive practices are to be fought effectively, all aspects of unfair competition must be taken into consideration, including social dumping and fraudulent posting of workers.