



Together for new growth



Single Market Act

INTRODUCTION

The Single Market remains the heart and main economic engine of the European Union. It remains our greatest asset to meet the current economic crisis. Despite the progress made since its creation in 1992, its growth potential is not yet fully realised. The Single Market must therefore take a further step to lay the foundations for greener and more inclusive growth. The Single Market Act, adopted by the European Commission, contains 12 key areas to revive the Single Market by 2012. These 12 drivers for growth, competitiveness and social progress include workers mobility, financing for SMEs, consumer protection, as well as digital content, taxation and Trans-European Networks. They aim to make life easier for all market players: businesses, citizens, consumers and workers



	Levers	Goals and how we will reach them	Key actions	Timetable of proposal for key actions	Complementary actions	Commissioners in charge (Bold = in charge of key action)
1	access to finance for small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to make it easier for the 21 million small businesses to have access to the finances they need to grow. • How: by finding new ways of financing, for example by creating a European passport for venture-capital allowing them to raise the funds they need and to invest easily across the EU 	Legislative initiative facilitating access to venture-capital across in Europe	4th quarter of 2011	amendments to Transparency, Prospectus and Market Abuse Directives; revision of MIFID Directive; analysis of the impact of thresholds for access to stock exchanges, leverage effect of public-private financing options (EIB - EIF).	BARNIER, TAJANI, REHN, HAHN, GEOGHEGAN-QUINN
2	citizens' mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to make it a reality for all Europeans who want to work abroad to be able to do so. This offers more opportunities for job seekers and allows for a better matching of skills and qualifications in the internal market. • How: by simplifying and improving the processes involved in the recognition of professional qualifications, by creating professional cards that are recognised throughout Europe and by improving the portability of pensions. 	Modernising the legislation on the recognition of professional qualifications	4th quarter of 2011	White Paper on portability of pensions; professional card; European skills passport; project for a recommendation on training "outside of school".	BARNIER, REHN, ANDOR, VASSILIOU, DALLI
3	intellectual property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to ensure that Europe remains a place for creativity and innovation, which is a source of new jobs (creative industries grew by 24% between 96 and 2006 compared to only 6% in other industrial sectors). • How: by updating legislation on intellectual property rights to foster "enabling legislation" which allows creators / inventors and users to develop their commercial models. We want to encourage and ensure fair compensation for creativity whilst enabling the widest possible dissemination of content and knowledge of various cultural content, so we can achieve freedom of dissemination of culture at EU level. We also need to fight counterfeiting (no. of seizures by customs authorities rose by 920% between 1999 and 2009). The adoption of an EU patent will be a major step forward to support creation in Europe as it will reduce its existing very high cost. (It costs 32 000 Euros today for a patent validated in all member states and this could be reduced to 2500 Euros). 	Legislation establishing a unitary patent in the EU	Proposals on 13th April 2011	renewal of the legislative framework for licensing; management of action plan encouraging collective rights management; action plan on piracy and counterfeiting; orphan works; European system of trademarks (these measures will be presented in the Communication on an IPR Strategy which will be adopted in May 2011).	BARNIER, SEMETA, VASSILIOU, KROES, TAJANI
4	consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to strengthen consumer confidence by guaranteeing that they can exercise their rights easily including when they buy cross border or make purchases online. For example, if consumers had more confidence in online cross-border shopping, they could save up to 2.5 billion Euros. • How: by developing for example rules on alternative dispute resolution 	Legislation on alternative dispute resolution	2nd quarter of 2011	directive on product safety; multi-annual action plan on market surveillance; initiative on the environmental footprint of products; communication on passenger rights; initiatives on consumer protection in the financial markets.	DALLI, TAJANI, ALMUNIA, POTOCNIK, KALLAS, BARNIER, REDING
5	services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to improve the functioning of the single market by maximising the movement of and the offer of services and by developing all the potential from cross border trade. (The services sector is growing faster than the rest of the economy (2.8% vs 2%)). • How: by broadening standardisation, essential for making trade easier, to include services and not just goods; by examining all the stages in the retail supply chain, so as to create an effective market and benefits for consumers. 	Revision of legislation on a European standards system	2nd quarter of 2011	monitoring of the implementation of the services directive; performance tests for services; initiative on fighting unfair commercial practises; high level group to study weaknesses in the market.	TAJANI, BARNIER
6	networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to create efficient and modern energy, telecoms and transport infrastructure. They are the backbone of the internal market and play a key role in encouraging the fluid and efficient circulation of goods and services. • How: by adapting existing infrastructures to the scale and needs of the European market, and to the needs of citizens by identifying strategic projects of European interest. For example, the realisation of a real European network for transporting energy could create around 775.000 extra jobs in the period between 2011 and 2020 and could lead to an increase in European GDP of 19 billion Euros by 2020. 	TENS Guidelines + legislation on energy infrastructures	3rd quarter of 2011 and 4th quarter of 2011	White Paper on transport - 2050; harmonisation of the radio-electric spectrum.	KALLAS, OETTINGER, KROES
7	digital single market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to benefit from all the potential of the digital technology which can make a substantial contribution to economic growth, whilst giving a proper framework for new developments. For example, if consumers had more confidence in online cross-border shopping, they could save up to 2.5 billion Euros. • How: by providing all the actors in the single market (citizens, consumers, businesses, administrative authorities) with adequate and reliable tools to develop their "on-line" activities for example via the recognition of the e-identification. 	Legislation on E-authentication + revision of the directive on the electronic signature	1st quarter 2012	e-commerce action plan; guidelines for transparency and non-discrimination for e-commerce; revision of the directive on Public Sector Information; measures on roaming.	KROES, BARNIER, TAJANI, DALLI, CIOLOS
8	social business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to encourage social entrepreneurship, that is to say all the actors of the single market who have chosen to pursue not only financial profits as a goal, but also social, environmental or ethical progress. It can be a real source of more jobs and social inclusion. • How : by helping the development of ethical investment funds by taking advantage of the financial leverage of the European assets industry. 	Legislation creating an ethical investment fund	4th quarter of 2011	legislative proposal on the transparency of the social and environmental information provided by businesses; creation of a european legal status for foundations; as-sociations, cooperatives; initiative for social entrepreneurship; communication on CSR	BARNIER, TAJANI, ANDOR, PIEBALGS, ALMUNIA, SEMETA
9	taxation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to adapt EU tax legislation to the realities of the single market and cross border challenges: to resolve existing fiscal obstacles, to respond to the new needs of businesses, and to the challenges of sustainable development (for example, gains of 0.02% of GDP linked to a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base). • How: by improving the framework for energy taxation so that it encourages practices which are more respectful of the environment; by adopting the CCCTB; and by revising the TVA system to respond to the needs of consumers and businesses. 	Legislation to amend the directive on energy taxation	Proposal on 13th April 2011	putting in place a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base; revision of the VAT system; communication on removing cross-border fiscal obstacles.	SEMETA
10	social cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to strengthen social cohesion by ensuring a clarification of how fundamental social rights are exercised and the legal framework for Services of General Economic Interest • How: by clarifying the rules for workers posted to another Member State; by recognising the value of Services of General Economic Interest, and more broadly the notion of public service in EU law : public services are vectors for territorial and social cohesion, they create jobs and are essential in the daily life of Europeans. 	Legislation on the posted workers directive + clarification of how to exercise fundamental social rights	4th quarter of 2011	revision of the Monti-Kroes package / post Altmark; communication on the recognition of and the guaranty of SGEI and SGI; initiative on access to banking services.	ANDOR, ALMUNIA, BARNIER
11	regulatory environment for businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to simplify the life of businesses by reducing regulatory and administrative burdens especially for small businesses. • How: for example, by simplifying accounting standards for businesses which would represent potential cost savings of 1.5 billion Euros every year for 1.1 million SMEs and 5.2 billion Euros for 5.9 million micro-businesses. 	Simplification of directives on accounting standards	2nd quarter of 2011	creation of a status for European private companies; follow-up to the SBA; creation of an optional instrument on European contract law; regulation to recover cross-border debt.	BARNIER, REDING, TAJANI
12	public procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal: to maximise the benefits of public procurement, which represent 18% of GDP, to boost growth. Public procurement is an important channel for public finances in difficulty, it is a vector for medium and long-term investment, it plays a role in the response to our needs for infrastructure and services (public procurement contracts amounting to 420 billion Euros are announced each year at a European level) • How: by providing simpler procedures to those who manage public procurement, allow them to support socially responsible and environmentally friendly approaches. Maximise this European asset in our relationships with our trading partners with the objective of reaching "reciprocal opening" of public procurement markets. 	Revision of the legislative framework for public procurement	4th quarter of 2011	legal framework for service concessions; legislation on access for third country businesses to European public procurement markets.	BARNIER, DE GUCHT





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