**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 7 February 2013

5915/1/13
REV 1

COMPET 65
POLGEN 13
MI   69
SOC   63
ENT   31
CONSOM 16
FIN   55
ENER   23
TRANS   34
TELECOM 16
IND   29

REVISED NOTE

from:	Presidency
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee / Council
Subject:	Single Market Act I & II
	- State of play

Delegations will find below a note presenting a general overview of the state of play regarding the priority measures of the Single Market Act I and II.

A. SMA I[*]

Standardisation

EC deadline: June 2012

Current status: adopted (4 October 2012).

Unitary Patent

EC deadline: June 2012

Current status: EU legal acts adopted and in force (20 January 2013).

Planned steps: Signing of UPC agreement planned in the margins of the February COMPET Council. Member States to agree on modalities for implementing the UPC.

Venture capital and **Social entrepreneurship funds**

EC deadline: June 2012.

Current status: agreement reached in December 2012.

Planned steps: Formal adoption in the first quarter of 2013.

Dispute resolution for consumers

EC deadline: June 2012.

Current status: agreement reached in December 2012.

Planned steps: Formal adoption in April 2013.

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[*]   The Energy Taxation proposal, while part of the SMA I, is not included in the note as it falls within the competence of Coreper II. Progress on the file was addressed at the December Ecofin Council.

Accounting Directive

EC deadline: June 2012.

Current status: Legislative proposal (Directive on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings) adopted by the Commission in October 2011. Four informal trilogues in November and December 2012 led to progress on Chapter IX (country-by-country reporting).

Planned steps: Technical meeting with Parliament 30 January. The next informal trilogue is scheduled for 18 February.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed. Negotiations continue, a first reading agreement should be within reach during the IE Presidency period.

Public procurement

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: General approach on the whole package (3 Directives) reached in December. The EP committee vote took place in December and January.

Planned steps: EP Committee should take a decision whether to start negotiations at the next IMCO meeting (20 February). In the meantime preparations for the technical meetings are on-going.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed, including due to the EP timetable, but adoption by the end of the IE Presidency appears possible.

Mutual recognition of professional qualifications

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: A progress report was on the agenda of the December COMPET Council. EP IMCO Committee voted on 23 January 2013.

Planned steps: Coreper will discuss the political issues on 27 February. The IE Presidency aims to reach a first reading agreement on the file.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed due to the speed of progress in negotiations and taking into account the EP timetable, but work is accelerating and adoption by the end of the IE Presidency appears possible.

E-signature

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: The proposal was adopted in June 2012. A progress report was presented at the December TTE (Telecom) Council.

Planned steps: A progress report is planned at the June TTE (Telecom) Council. Coreper will review the file in March.

Comments: Progress has been delayed given the delay of Commission's proposal and the technical work involved. The objective is to reach agreement by the end of 2013.

Connecting Europe Facility

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: The proposal (CEF) was adopted by the Commission in October 2011 and is closely related to the MFF 2014-2020. A partial general approach was reached at the June 2012 TTE Council. The EP TRAN-ITRE joint committee vote took place on 18 December 2012.

Planned steps: Trilogues are scheduled to start soon with the aim of reaching a first reading agreement during the IE Presidency.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed due to delays, including the horizontal negotiations on the MFF, but adoption during the IE Presidency appears possible. Consistency will have to be ensured with the three TEN proposals: Transport, Energy, and Telecommunications.

Trans-European networks (energy)

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: Agreement with EP reached in December 2012.

Planned steps: Formal adoption in the first quarter of 2013.

Comments: Political agreement reached within EC deadline; consistency will have to be ensured with the CEF

Trans-European networks (telecommunications)

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: A progress report was presented at the December TTE (Telecom) Council. The EP ITRE committee vote took place in November 2012.

Planned steps: Trilogues to start during IE Presidency on 5 March with the aim of reaching a first reading agreement.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed but work is progressing and an agreement during the IE Presidency appears possible. Consistency will have to be ensured with the CEF.

Trans-European networks (transport)

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: The proposal was adopted by the Commission in October 2011 and is dealt with as sector-specific proposal within the MFF 2014-2020. A general approach was reached at March 2012 TTE Council. The EP TRAN committee vote took place on 18 December 2012.

Planned steps: Trilogues are scheduled to start on 20 February with the aim of reaching a first reading agreement during the IE Presidency.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed due to EP timetable but adoption during the IE Presidency appears possible. Consistency will have to be ensured with the CEF (trilogues in parallel planned).

Posted workers

EC deadline: December 2012.

Current status: Progress reports were presented to the EPSCO Council in June and December 2012.

Planned steps: The EP EMPL Committee is scheduled to vote in February 2013; the EP plenary vote is scheduled in April 2013. The IE Presidency aims at reaching a general approach at the June EPSCO Council. Coreper will discuss the most sensitive issues in March.

Comments: The EC deadline was missed given the date of submission of the proposal, the rate of progress and the timetable of the EP, but work is progressing and adoption in 2013 appears likely.

B. SMA II[*]

Fourth railway package

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Proposal adopted by the Commission on 30 January 2013. Work to start at WP level.

Planned steps: Possible general approach on "interoperability proposal" in June 2013

Comments: Given that the "package" contains 6 proposals; their examination will be pursued in 2013 and 2014.

Blue Belt package

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started.

Planned steps: Proposal expected from the Commission in June 2013.

Comments: Any further delays in the presentation of the proposals may hamper prospects for adoption during the current EP term.

Long-term investment access

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started.

Planned steps: Proposal expected from the Commission in June 2013.

Comments: Any further delays in the presentation of the proposal may hamper prospects for adoption during the current EP term.

Modernisation of EU insolvency rules

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Proposal adopted by the Commission on 12 December 2012.

Planned steps: First WP meeting 14-15 February; four more WP meeting planned until June.

Comments: Adoption by the end of the current EP term should be within reach.

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[*] This note does not include the action plan for the implementation of the Single European Sky, the action plan for the 3rd energy package and the decision on EURES development, which fall within the competence of the Commission.

Revision of Payment Services Directive & Proposal for multilateral Interchange Fees

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started.

Planned steps: Proposal expected from the Commission in May 2013.

Comments: Any further delays in the presentation of the proposal may hamper prospects for adoption during the current EP term.

High-speed broadband deployment

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started.

Planned steps: Proposal expected from the Commission in March 2013.

Comments: Any further delays in the presentation of the proposal beyond March may hamper prospects for adoption during the current EP term.

E-invoicing for public procurement

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started.

Planned steps: Proposal for legal initiative expected from the Commission in May 2013.

Comments: The topic has not been on the agenda of the WP previously. Any further delays in the presentation of the proposal may hamper prospects for adoption during current EP term.

Product safety package

EC deadline: May 2014.

Current status: Work not started. Proposals (two Regulations) expected from the Commission on 13 February 2013. COMPET Council on 19 February to take note of presentation by the Commission.

Comments: IE Presidency and upcoming Presidencies are committed to make progress on the package so that adoption can take place in spring 2014.

Basic payment accounts
<u>EC deadline</u>: May 2014.
<u>Current status</u>: Work not started.
<u>Planned steps</u>: Proposal expected from the Commission in March 2013.
<u>Comments</u>: Any further delays in the presentation of the proposal may hamper prospects for adoption during the current EP term..

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