

Commission Work Program 2013

BC12- 004/71224

Link to the Work Programme: [here](#)

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Boosting competitiveness through the Single Market and industrial policy:

Main actions:

- The **Commission will deepen its work to help SMEs** facing the challenge of financing and implement the Action Plan for entrepreneurship. Support from the **European Regional Development Fund and the COSME programme will be ready to roll out when the new financing period starts in 2014**. New programming of the European Social Fund will also include a particular focus on the provision of skills necessary for successful transition from school to work and for increasing employability of the workforce.

Forthcoming Initiatives:

Initiative n°	Title	Type	Description of scope of objectives
14.	Review of standardisation acquis	Legislative/ Nonlegislative	The initiative will consist of two parts: 1) An initiative to establish strategic priorities and specific mandates to support EU policy for international competitiveness, innovation, digital interoperability and technological development. 2) An independent review will be launched in 2013 to assess progress against strategic objectives and evaluate the performance of the current governance in the European standardisation system.
18	Making business easier through a standard VAT declaration*	Legislative	The aim is to make a standardised VAT declaration available in all EU languages and optional for businesses across the EU. The standard VAT declaration forms a key action point of the strategy for the future of VAT and of the Better Regulation Agenda, as it will help reducing burdens on business and enhance the digital single market. (Q3 2013)
19	Making the VAT system more efficient through a review of the rates structures	Legislative	The aim is to readjust the scope of the reduced rates in order to increase the efficiency of the VAT system
20.	Access for regulated professions	Non-legislative	Take stock of recent developments in Member States in the area of regulated professions and to devise a methodology for facilitating the mutual evaluation exercise foreseen in the proposal modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive. The mutual evaluation foreseen in the proposal will focus on restrictions

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(qualifications and reserved activities).

Connect to Compete: Building tomorrow's networks today

The objective :

On transport, a fully integrated single market and more efficient networks allowing to switch easily between different modes, would bring huge benefits to citizens and companies, including in urban areas.

Main Actions:

In order to continue to fill in the missing links in 2013/14 the Commission will make proposals to:

- Modernise Europe's transport and logistics to help companies save time and energy, as well as reduce emissions, through proposals on rail and freight transport, goods traffic between EU ports, and the **Single European Sky**;
- Tackle the obstacles to electronic payments;

More needs to be done to achieve a true European transport area with European rules: proposals on connecting up in the rail sector and on accelerating the implementation of the Single European Sky should be taken forward as priorities.

Forthcoming Initiatives:

N°	Title	Type	Description of scope of objectives
25	Follow up to Green Paper: Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and mobile payments*	Legislative	While card, internet and mobile payments are the retail payment methods with the highest growth potential, there is significant market fragmentation along national borders. The follow-up to the Green Paper addresses the main obstacles for market integration in these areas. (Q2 2013)
26.	Single European Sky package - Single Sky II plus	Legislative / Nonlegislative	This package (Communication, SES Regulation, EASA Regulation) addresses a number of issues that were left unresolved during the SES development. These concern in particular the performance of air navigation service provision and the need to clarify the institutional landscape at EU level to ensure the roles and responsibilities of various organizations support each other, but do not overlap.
28.	Framework on the future EU ports' policy including a legislative proposal	Legislative / Nonlegislative	Enhancing the efficiency and overall quality of port services, addressing the obligations of Member States regarding the sound planning of ports and hinterland connections, transparency of public funding and port charges, and administrative simplification efforts in ports, and reviewing restrictions on the provision of services at ports.

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Building a safe and secure EU

Objectives:

Vigilance is needed to ensure that the fundamental rights of citizens in the EU are protected in full. If people and businesses are to take full advantage of their rights, they need easy access to justice, on equal terms in all countries in cases of cross-border litigation.

Forthcoming Initiatives:

N°	Title	Type	Description of scope of objectives
51.	Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers	Legislative / Nonlegislative	Since its entry into force, the Community Code on Visas ('Visa Code') has streamlined the rules and conditions for issuing visas and enhanced the harmonised applications of those common rules. Building on an evaluation report on its implementation, the Commission intends to propose amendments to improve the Visa Code. This will ensure that the EU Visa policy fosters economic growth and cultural exchanges by facilitating the travel to the EU of legitimate travellers such as businessmen, tourists, students and young people while ensuring a high level of security of the EU.