

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000919/26
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(4 March 2026)**

Subject: Commission's report on the single market and competitiveness

One year after presenting its 'Competitiveness Compass', the Commission's 2026 annual report on the single market and competitiveness reports limited progress. Of 29 key performance indicators, only six have improved, while most remain unchanged and several have deteriorated. The Commission notes that single market integration has 'reached a plateau', with most barrier-relevant indicators showing limited progress.

Fragmented national rules still make it complex and costly for companies to establish and operate across borders. Market surveillance remains weak, despite the surge in e-commerce imports, and services markets continue to face restrictive regulations. The posting of workers and the recognition of professional qualifications remain burdensome, limiting labour mobility.

At the same time, research and development expenditure remains below the 3% GDP target, private and venture capital investment lag behind global competitors, and the uptake of digital technologies such as AI and cloud computing is progressing too slowly. Strategic dependencies and persistently high energy prices further undermine EU competitiveness.

In view of this stagnation and the persistence of structural barriers, what new measures does the Commission intend to take to accelerate single market integration and deliver tangible improvements in competitiveness by 2027?

Submitted: 4.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(4 May 2026)**

The Competitiveness Compass ⁽¹⁾, the Clean Industrial Deal ⁽²⁾ and the Single Market Strategy ⁽³⁾ provide a comprehensive framework to strengthen the EU's competitiveness, resilience and growth.

In addition to the initiatives already put forward under these strategies ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission will propose several measures in 2026 to support a competitive Single Market, such as the Public Procurement Act, the Circular Economy Act, the European Product Act and the Skills Portability Initiative ⁽⁵⁾.

In parallel, the Commission continues to address the most harmful Single Market barriers, promote investment and reduce administrative burdens in the EU.

To lower the administrative burden, ten Omnibus simplification proposals have been adopted and more will follow, alongside a regulatory 'deep cleaning' of EU legislation to support competitiveness ⁽⁶⁾.

The swift adoption and implementation of EU policy measures by the co-legislators and Member States is key to delivering tangible benefits.

The 'One Europe, One Market Roadmap' presented by the President of the Commission for joint endorsement by the three institutions aims at committing them jointly to the delivery of the measures required to deepen the Single Market and foster the EU's competitiveness.

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 30 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025) 85 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025) 500 final.

⁽⁴⁾ The 2026 Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report (COM(2026) 46 final) provides an overview of the implementation of policy actions under the three strategies.

⁽⁵⁾ The Skills Portability Initiative was announced in the Union of Skills in March 2025 (COM(2025) 90 final) and will be presented as part of the Fair Mobility Package.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/simplification-and-implementation/simplification_en.