

EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET PROGRAMME: NEW SOLUTIONS TO EXISTING INTERNAL MARKET CHALLENGES

Ivica Kustura¹⁰

Abstract

This article aims to present the objectives, dedicated financial means as well as implementation measures in all ecosystems covered by the new European Single Market Programme for the ongoing multiannual financial framework. European Single Market is built on four freedoms for: persons, goods, services and capital, granted in the Treaty of Rome of 1957. Over time these freedoms were broadened through, namely, the Single European Act, the Treaty of Maastricht and the Single Market Act.

The European Commission has realised that a dedicated funding and teams are necessary to support this cornerstone of the entire European construction. The current European Single Market Programme integrates several previous programmes and as such is intended to represent a more adaptable and responsive financing framework for all-encompassed policies.

Keywords: *Single Market Programme, European internal market, European multiannual financial framework, competitiveness of enterprises, market control, consumer protection*

INTRODUCTION

The Single Market (“SM”)¹¹ is probably the most important masterpiece of the European project, enabling the free movement¹² of persons¹³,

¹⁰ Mr. sc. Ivica Kustura, lect., University North, Koprivnica, Trg dr Žarka Dolinara 1, ikustura@unin.hr

¹¹ The Single European Market was created in 1986: Single European Act, *OJ L 169*, 29.6.1987, p. 1. It was broadened by the subsequent revisions of treaties. And the remaining barriers were set to be lifted in the Single Market Act of 2011: Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Single Market Act, Twelve levers to boost growth and strengthen confidence "Working together to create new growth", COM/2011/0206 final. Today, articles 26 and onwards of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (“TFEU”) regulate this topic.

¹² These freedoms figured already in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (Treaty of Rome) signed on 25.03.1957, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teec/sign> (access: 08/09/2022.). See also: N. BODIROGA-VUKOBRAT, H. HORAK and A. MARTINOVIĆ, *Temeljne gospodarske slobode u Europskoj uniji*, Zagreb, Inženjerski biro, 2011, 346 p.

¹³ Article 21 TFEU confers general rights to free movement in the EU and to reside freely within limits set by legislation.; Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC, *OJ L 158*, 30.4.2004, p. 77; See also M. KAPURAL, “Sloboda kretanja radnika u proširenoj Europskoj uniji i njezin utjecaj na Hrvatsku”, in K. Ott (ed.) *Pridruživanje Hrvatske*

goods¹⁴, services¹⁵ and capital¹⁶ throughout the European Union (“EU”). Since its creation, the SM has been a major source of growth, competitiveness and jobs for the entire EU¹⁷. With the new European Single Market Programme (“SMP”) prepared for

Europskoj uniji: ususret izazovima pregovora, Zagreb, Institut za javne financije, 2005, pp. 83-105; E. DUBOUT and A. MAITROT DE LA MOTTE (ed.), *L'unité des libertés de circulation*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2013, 748 p.

¹⁴ Articles 34 to 36 TFEU represent the cornerstone for the general principle of the free movement of good in the EU. These articles are applied by default, if a specific topic related to the free movement of goods is not regulated by a more specific EU legislation. In this latter case, all national measures must comply with such legislation and not with provisions of the TFEU, see: Case C-309/02 *Radlberger Getränkegesellschaft and S. Spitz* [2004] ECLI:EU:C:2004:799, § 53. The goods are defined as products which can be valued in money and are subject to commercial transaction, see: Case C-7/68 *Commission v Italy* [1968] ECLI:EU:C:1968:51. The European court of justice (“ECJ”) also explained that all measures hindering indirectly or potentially intra-EU trade are also prohibited, see: Case C-8/74 *Procureur du Roi v Benoît and Gustave Dassonville*

[1974] ECLI:EU:C:1974:82, § 5. In another of numerous cases examined, the ECJ stressed that the Article 34 TFEU reflects the obligations to respect three principles: (a) the principle of non-discrimination; (b) the principle of mutual recognition; and (c) the principle of ensuring free access of Community products to national markets, see: Case C-110/05 *Commission v Italy* [2009] ECLI:EU:C:2009:66.

¹⁵ Article 49 grants the right of establishment while the freedom to provide services is provided for in article 56 TFEU. The ECJ has clarified the differences between them in Case C-76/90 *Säger* [1990] ECLI:EU:C:1991:331, taking into account the temporary and occasional nature of the service: “a Member State may not make the provision of services in its territory subject to compliance with all the conditions required for establishment and thereby deprive of all practical effectiveness the provisions of the Treaty whose object is, precisely, to guarantee the freedom to provide services”. See also: Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, *OJ L 376*, 27.12.2006, p. 36.; Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, *OJ L 255*, 30.9.2005, p. 22.; Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market ('Directive on electronic commerce'), *OJ L 178*, 17.7.2000, p. 1.

¹⁶ Articles 63 to 66 TFEU constitutes the backbones of the free movement of capital in the EU. In addition, there are also most important secondary EU legislative sources: Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on cross-border payments in the Community and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2560/2001, *OJ L 266*, 9.10.2009, p. 11. Regulation (EU) 2019/518 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 as regards certain charges on cross-border payments in the Union and currency conversion charges, *OJ L 91*, 29.3.2019, p. 36. Directive 2007/64/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on payment services in the internal market amending Directives 97/7/EC, 2002/65/EC, 2005/60/EC and 2006/48/EC and repealing Directive 97/5/EC, *OJ L 319*, 5.12.2007, p. 1. Regulation (EU) No 260/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 establishing technical and business requirements for credit transfers and direct debits in euro and amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009, *OJ L 94*, 30.3.2012, p. 22. Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC, *OJ L 337*, 23.12.2015, p. 35. See also: T. HAFNER, “The free movement of capital in the European Union”, in R. Grote and T. Marauhn (eds.), *The Regulation of International Financial Markets: Perspectives for Reform*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 141-150.

¹⁷ Free movement of goods generates around 25 % of EU GDP, 75 % of intra-EU trade, see: COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT, Accompanying the

the ongoing multiannual financial framework¹⁸, all citizens and businesses should continue to benefit from the SM to an even greater extent. The SM has opened new horizons for EU companies, in particular micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (“SME”), and enabled them to achieve economies of scale and strengthen industrial competitiveness.

It is necessary that the single internal market continuously adapts to the environment of the rapidly changing digital revolution as well as to the global market. The new era of digital innovation also offers opportunities for businesses and for individuals; enables the creation of new products, services, processes and business models, as well as opportunities for the efficient creation of high-quality statistics. It also poses a challenge in terms of regulation and consumer protection and safety.¹⁹

However, a well-functioning SM has not been given *per se*. It has yet to be implemented in several areas while in others its results could be better.

A well-functioning SM will be key to Europe's recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and to help the green and digital transitions of all European industrial ecosystems. This requires carefully designed and implemented EU legislation in all sectors, including financial services, anti-money laundering, free movement of capital and consumer protection as well as human, animal and plant health. Enhanced governance of the SM and effective coordination of joint actions between the Member States (“MS”) and the European Commission (“EC”) are essential in this area.²⁰

1. GENERAL SCOPE

The SMP aims to:

- I. to help ensure a functional SM of goods and services, with appropriate legislation, among others in the areas of financial services, prevention of money laundering, free movement of capital, consumer protection as well as animal and plant health;
- II. providing high-quality statistical data on all EU policies; and
- III. coordinate capacity building for joint actions between the EC and the MS.²¹

This program has the following specific objectives and dedicated financial means:

document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mutual recognition on goods lawfully marketed in another Member State, COM (2017) 796 final, p. 5.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014, *OJ L 153*, 3.5.2021, p. 1

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) No. 99/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 January 2013 on the European Statistical Agenda from 2013 to 2017, *OJ L 39*, 9.2.2013, p. 12.

²⁰ More information about this program can be found at the link: <https://europa.eu/!Jt84Tb> (access: 19/04/2022).

²¹ Art. 3, § 1. of the Regulation (EU) 2021/690, *op cit*.

1. improving the efficiency of the internal market, including digital transformation, preventing and removing illegal obstacles and ensuring that only safe and compliant products can be offered for sale (452 million euros over a seven-year period);
2. strengthening the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs, among others through various forms of support, promotion of new business opportunities and development of industrial value chains (106 million euros);
3. ensuring the efficient functioning of the internal market through high-quality European and international standards (billion euros);
4. promotion of consumer interests and a high level of consumer protection and product safety, among others in the area of financial services (221 million euros);
5. contribute to a high level of health and safety of people, animals and plants in the entire food chain, among other things by eradicating animal diseases and plant pests and developing sustainable food production and consumption (1.7 billion euros);
6. develop, produce, disseminate and communicate high-quality European statistics (552 million euros).²²

Legal entities are entitled to financing if they are:

1. based in an EU Member State or an overseas country or state territory of that country or in a third country associated with the SMP;
2. established in accordance with EU law or by any international organisation;
3. in a third country that is not associated with the SMP, but whose activities are in line with its objectives.²³

The SMP can allocate its financial resources as grants, through public procurement, awards and financial instruments in the context of mixed financial operations²⁴. The rules on co-financing stipulate that:

1. in certain circumstances, the program can cover up to 100% of eligible costs. In other cases, the range is between 50% and 95%²⁵;
2. activities can be financed from the SMP and other European funds, provided that their contributions do not cover the same costs.²⁶

The SMP covers the following areas presented hereinafter.

²² Ibidem, art. 3, § 2. and art. 4.

²³ Ibidem, art. 9.

²⁴ With mixed financing, non-reimbursable forms of support or financial instruments from the EU budget are combined with reimbursable forms of support from development or other public financial institutions and commercial financial institutions and investors.

²⁵ The rule is that the SMP finances 50% of eligible costs. Financing of 75% of eligible costs is possible in two cases. In the first case, it refers to the cross-border activity of two or more Member States with the aim of controlling or eradicating organisms harmful to plants or animal diseases. In the second case, it is possible for Member States whose GNI is less than 90% of the EU average.

Financing of 100% of eligible costs is possible, among other things, when activities relate to the prevention and control of serious risks to human, plant and animal health in the EU with the aim of avoiding human casualties or major economic disruptions.

²⁶ Art. 12. of the Regulation (EU) 2021/690, op. cit.

2. MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PRODUCTS

Regulatory barriers in the internal market have been removed for many industrial products through the establishment of preventive mechanisms, the adoption of common regulations or, in the absence of such regulations, through the application of the principle of mutual recognition.²⁷ In areas that are not covered by the EU legislation, the principle of mutual recognition applies, which means that products legally placed on the market in one Member State have the right to move freely in another Member State. If the Member State concerned has reason to oppose the placing on the market of a product, it may impose a restriction, provided that such restriction is not discriminatory, justified by legitimate aims in the public interest, as set out in Article 36 of the TFEU²⁸ and is proportionate to the achievement of the aim pursued. However, inappropriate application of the principle of mutual recognition, such as the imposition of unjustified or disproportionate restrictions, complicates the access of companies to markets in other MS. By adoption of the Regulation (EU) 2019/515²⁹ the EC intends to increase economic benefits in that area.

3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, MARKET CONTROL, ACCREDITATION OF CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES AND STATISTICS

One of the tasks of the SMP is to support the development of the EU regulatory framework in the field of company law and corporate governance, as well as contract law, so that companies, especially SMEs, are more efficient and competitive, while at the same time ensuring the protection of participants who could be damaged by certain activities carried out by commercial companies as well as respond to new political challenges.

The SMP is intended to improve product compliance by strengthening compliance checks in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/1020³⁰ and promoting closer cross-border cooperation between law enforcement authorities in order to prevent the sale of non-compliant products to consumers and other end users. The program also strengthens the capacities of market surveillance authorities across the EU, contributing to greater consistency in compliance monitoring across MS and enabling

²⁷ The principle of mutual recognition, whereby a good that is lawfully marketed in one Member State has to be allowed to be marketed in any other Member State, without further testing or adaptation to national rules, was established by the European Court of Justice in a case known as Cassis de Dijon: C-120/78 *Rewe / Bundesmonopolverwaltung für Branntwein*, [1978], ECLI:EU:C:1979:42.

²⁸ Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *OJ C 326*, 26.10.2012, p. 47.

²⁹ Regulation (EU) 2019/515 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State and repealing Regulation (EC) No 764/2008, *OJ L 91*, 29.3.2019, p. 1.

³⁰ Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011, *OJ L 169*, 25.6.2019, p. 1.

MS to equally benefit from the benefits of the internal market in terms of economic growth and sustainability.

The EU has also established a system of accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for product categories to verify their expertise, impartiality and independence³¹. It is crucial that conformity assessment bodies are reliable and competent as they check whether products comply with safety requirements before they are placed on the market. The SMP supports measures to ensure that conformity assessment bodies continue to meet regulatory requirements, such as impartiality and independence, including by granting accreditations.

In addition, the SMP supports the production of high-quality European statistics in accordance with the statistical principles laid down in Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 and developed in the European Statistical Code³².

4. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Public authorities use public procurement to ensure the best use of public funds and award contracts based on best value for money, which identify not only the most economically advantageous offer, but also the most advantageous in terms of maximum public value. Public authorities must also observe the provisions of the Directives 2014/23/EU³³, 2014/24/EU³⁴ and 2014/25/EU³⁵ providing a legal framework for the integration and efficient functioning of public procurement, which represents 14% of the gross domestic product of the EU. Compliance with public procurement rules is an important instrument for strengthening the internal market and stimulating corporate growth and jobs in the EU. Therefore, the SMP supports measures that ensure a wider application of strategic public procurement, professionalisation of public contracting authorities, facilitating and improving access to public procurement for SMEs, as well as encouraging the exchange of experiences and best practices, referring to European and international standards, providing guidelines, concluding useful trade agreements, by strengthening cooperation between national bodies and launching joint projects.

³¹ Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93, *OJ L 218*, 13.8.2008, p. 30.

³² Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities, *OJ L 87*, 31.3.2009, p. 164.

³³ Directive 2014/23/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the award of concession contracts, *OJ L 94*, 28.3.2014, p. 1.

³⁴ Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC, *OJ L 94*, 28.3.2014, p. 65.

³⁵ Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC, *OJ L 94*, 28.3.2014, p. 243.

5. MARKET COMPETITION POLICY

One of the core competencies of the EU is ensuring fair competition in the EU market³⁶. The SMP also covers the competition area, by improving and strengthening cooperation with the authorities of the MS responsible for market competition³⁷. Considering the special role of competition policy in preventing damage to the internal market resulting from anti-market behaviour outside the borders of the EU, the SMP can, if necessary, also support cooperation with the authorities of third countries. The implementation of the market competition policy requires flexibility, which is then reflected in the implementation of the part of this program that deals with market competition in order to respond to the changing needs conditioned by the dynamics of market competition conditions that change rapidly and whose pace and scope are difficult to estimate.³⁸ This flexibility is especially related to the transition to digital, artificial intelligence, algorithms, big data, cybersecurity and scientific technologies.

6. SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (“SME”)

SMEs that are relevant for financing by the SMP are defined in EC recommendation 2003/361/EC³⁹.

SMEs are the driver of the EU economy. They represent 99.8% of companies in the EU, provide two-thirds of all jobs and greatly contribute to the creation of new quality jobs in all sectors at the regional and local level and are therefore a source of social cohesion.⁴⁰ SMEs have a key role in the modernization of industry and in the ecological and digital transformations of the economy, including the achievement of the goal of climate neutrality. The SMP supports their efforts to increase their resource efficiency and develop high-quality, environmentally friendly products and services. The program will also contribute to improving the competitiveness of SMEs in the global market.

³⁶ A. EZRACHI, *EU Competition Law: An Analytical Guide to the Leading Cases*, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021., 864 p.; P. KATSORCHI, *Le réseau des règles de droit international européen de la concurrence*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2022, 702 p. ; N. BODRIGA-VUKOBRAT, *Socijalna sigurnost i tržišno natjecanje : europski zahtjevi i nacionalna rješenja*, Rijeka, Pravni fakultet Sveučilišta u Rijeci, 2008, 382 p.; W. CHAJEHLAUDI, « Faut-il repenser le droit européen des concentrations après l’affaire Alstom/Siemens ? », *C.D.E.*, 2019/2-3, pp. 549-611. ; E. PAROCHE and J.-S. DUPREY, « Le REC : une coresponsabilité dans la définition de la politique de concurrence de l’Union européenne ? », *Rev. Aff. Eur.*, 2015/4, pp. 615-620.

³⁷ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, *OJ L 1*, 4.1.2003, p. 1.

³⁸ Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation), *OJ L 24*, 29.1.2004, p. 1.

³⁹ Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (notified under document number C(2003) 1422), *OJ L 124*, 20.5.2003, p. 36.

⁴⁰ A. VUKIČEVIĆ, “European Union in function of Development and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises” in D. Duić (ed.), *International Scientific Conference „EU Law in Context – Adjustment to Membership and Challenges of the Enlargement“ in Osijek, 14-15 June 2018*, Osijek: Faculty of Law, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, 2018, pp. 700-709.

The SMP takes into account, in its implementation of the support to SMEs, the strategic provisions of the Strategy for SMEs⁴¹ and the Small Business Act⁴², the context in which SMEs operate as well as the existing network of SME representatives.

There are various European instruments and funds that ensure that SMEs, including start-ups, can play their role as the backbone of the competitiveness of the EU economy. Additional support is thus available to SMEs in the form of lending instruments and equity capital established within the framework of the policy for SMEs from the InvestEU Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/523⁴³. Through the Credit Guarantee Instrument, established in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013⁴⁴, the EU will create added value as it is estimated that it will make a positive contribution to at least 500,000 SMEs. With greater awareness raising among potential users of the InvestEU program, this result could be even better.

It is important to note that the Enterprise Europe Network⁴⁵ also provides services on behalf of other EU programs, especially on behalf of the Horizon Europe programme⁴⁶ using financial resources available to those programs. The Enterprise Europe Network is also improving cooperation with the European Digital Innovation Centres selected under the Digital Europe program established by Regulation (EU) 2021/694⁴⁷ and the InvestEU Advisory Hub. In addition, Erasmus for young entrepreneurs⁴⁸, as a proven mentoring system, ensures the acquisition of experience in the world of business and management by connecting with experienced entrepreneurs from other MS and thus strengthens their entrepreneurial talents. The SMP will expand its geographic coverage and offer a wider range of connectivity options in complementarity with other EU initiatives.

⁴¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe, COM/2020/103 final.

⁴² Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - "Think Small First" - A "Small Business Act" for Europe, COM/2008/0394 final.

⁴³ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, *OJ L 107*, 26.3.2021, p. 30.

⁴⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC, *OJ L 347*, 20.12.2013, p. 33.

⁴⁵ <https://een.ec.europa.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).

⁴⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, *OJ L 170*, 12.5.2021, p. 1.

⁴⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240, *OJ L 166*, 11.5.2021, p. 1.

⁴⁸ <https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).

Through the stimulating and resilient business environment they offer, clusters are a strategic tool for supporting the competitiveness and expansion of SMEs. Cluster organizations⁴⁹ are used to direct support to SMEs, among other things, to promote the adoption of state-of-the-art technologies, low-carbon and resource-efficient solutions and internationalization. The SMP works also in synergy with the Erasmus+ program established by Regulation (EU) 2021/817⁵⁰.

7. CONSUMER PROTECTION

One of the assignments of the SMP is to raise the level of awareness of EU legislation on consumer protection and safety among consumers, businesses, representatives of civil society and public bodies. It also empowers consumers and their representative organizations at the national and EU level. This includes support for the European Organization for Consumers ('BEUC')⁵¹, an established and recognized long-standing non-governmental organization that represents consumers' interests in all relevant EU policies. The program is also supported by the European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Advocacy in Standardization ("ANEC")⁵², which represents the interests of consumers in matters of standardization. In addition, the SMP supports measures for the preparation of relevant market information, including the publication of indicator tables for consumers at the EU level and the application of Directive 2001/95/EC⁵³ on general product safety as well as Directive 2013/11/EU⁵⁴ on alternative dispute resolution.

The support that the SMP gives to the network of European consumer centres⁵⁵ is also very important. These centres help consumers exercise their rights when purchasing goods and services cross-border in the internal market and the European Economic Area, either online or while traveling. That network, with 29 centres and more than 15 years of co-financing from EU programs, has proven its added value in strengthening the confidence of consumers and professionals in the internal market. It is one of the most respected citizen support networks in the EU, and most of its centres host national contact points or contact points offering advice on aspects of internal market law, such as Directive 2006/123/EC⁵⁶.

⁴⁹ <https://clustercollaboration.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).

⁵⁰ Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, *OJ L 189*, 28.5.2021, p. 1.

⁵¹ <https://www.beuc.eu/> (access: 11/09/2022).

⁵² <https://www.anec.eu/> (access: 11/09/2022).

⁵³ Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 December 2001 on general product safety, *OJ L 11*, 15.1.2002, p. 4.

⁵⁴ Directive 2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC, *OJ L 165*, 18.6.2013, p. 63.

⁵⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/consumer-rights-and-complaints/resolve-your-consumer-complaint/european-consumer-centres-network-ecc-net_en (access: 12/09/2022).

⁵⁶ Directive 2006/123/EC, op. cit.

In addition, there are several directives⁵⁷ at the EU level, which, among other things, ensure equal treatment of consumers throughout the internal market. Their goal is to strengthen the capacities of MS for compliance, improve product safety, strengthen international cooperation and open new possibilities for legal protection. In May 2017, the EC conducted a review of the suitability of the EU legislation on consumer protection, which resulted in two new directives related to that topic⁵⁸. The SMP supports the application of these directives and promotes their cross-border implementation.

8. FINANCIAL SECTOR

The good functioning of financial markets in the EU is in the interest of its citizens and economic entities. The SMP contributes to strengthening the capacity of consumers and other end-users of financial services to participate in a policymaking, among other things, by creating and disseminating clear, comprehensive and easy-to-use information about products supplied on financial markets, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/826⁵⁹. This is necessary to ensure that the decision-makers are familiar with the views of participants who are not experts from the financial sector as well as to ensure a better representation of the interests of consumers and other end-users of financial services. Thus, the EC, as part of a pilot project, awarded grants to two organizations after an annual open call for proposals. Those two organizations are Finance Watch⁶⁰, which was founded with EU grants in 2011 as an international non-profit association under Belgian law, and Better Finance⁶¹, which is the result of successive reorganizations and renaming of European investor and shareholder

⁵⁷ - Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers, *OJ L 80*, 18.3.1998, p. 27.

- Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market and amending Council Directive 84/450/EEC, Directives 97/7/EC, 98/27/EC and 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('Unfair Commercial Practices Directive'), *OJ L 149*, 11.6.2005, p. 22.

- Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, *OJ L 304*, 22.11.2011, p. 64.

⁵⁸ Directive (EU) 2019/2161, of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules, *OJ L 328*, 18.12.2019, p. 7.; Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC, *OJ L 409*, 4.12.2020, p. 1.

⁵⁹ Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policymaking in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020, *OJ L 129*, 19.5.2017, p. 17.

⁶⁰ <https://www.finance-watch.org/> (access: 12/09/2022).

⁶¹ <https://betterfinance.eu/> (access: 12/09/2022).

associations that have existed since 2009. These two organisations will be the only ones to be co-financed with the financial resources of the SMP.

9. FOOD SAFETY

The legislative framework of the EU, in the field of production of human food, feed for animals, plants and animals in general, seeks to maintain a high level of human, animal and plant health, improve animal welfare, contribute to a high level of consumer protection and environmental protection, while at the same time improving the sustainability of production human food and animal feed.

The SMP applies specific eligibility criteria in the field of food safety for grants and public procurement. As an exception to the principle of non-retroactivity established in the Financial Regulation⁶², expenditures for emergency measures, precisely because of their urgency and unpredictability, are eligible, including costs incurred due to the suspicion of the appearance of a disease or harmful organism, provided that the presence of the disease or organism is subsequently confirmed and notified to the EC accordingly.

The existence of effective official control systems is crucial for maintaining a high level of safety throughout the food chain, as well as for consumer confidence, and ensures a high level of environmental protection and animal welfare. For this purpose, the EU supports EU reference laboratories and national reference laboratories for plant and animal health, which, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625⁶³, and are eligible to be financed by the MS, provided that it can be clearly demonstrated that the implemented measures represent an added value to the EU and that the SMP disposes of sufficient financial resources to support these measures.

⁶²Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, *OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.*

⁶³ Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation), *OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1.*

10. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The EU and its MS are committed to a leading role in the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁶⁴, the 26th United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow⁶⁵ and the implementation of the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development until 2030⁶⁶. Consequently, the SMP will contribute to the implementation of the obligations arising from the above agreements and will support activities that are in line with the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the EU by supporting the general goal of 30% of the EU's budget expenditures to be climate-related in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2020/852⁶⁷.

11. THE SMP MANAGEMENT

The EC manages mainly directly the SMP (the main participating administrations are DGs COMP, ESTAT, FISMA, GROW, JUST, SANTE, TAXUD).

Two Executive Agencies implement parts of the SMP, namely the European Innovation Council and the Executive Agency for SMEs⁶⁸ (for activities related to the competitiveness of companies and SMEs, standardization and the promotion of consumer interests) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency⁶⁹ (for activities related to the protection of human, animal and plant health throughout the food chain and the support of animal welfare).

CONCLUSION

The SMP encompasses previous programs from different policy areas, in particular the programme for the SMEs, programmes for consumer protection, consumers and end-users of financial services, specific activities in the field of financial reporting and auditing standards and statistics as well as to protect human, animal and plant health along the food chain and in related areas. It also integrates several former prerogative budget lines. In such a way, it is expected that this integrated program will represent a more adaptable and responsive financing framework that will enable better exploitation of synergies, prevention of duplication and determination of priorities in all ecosystems covered.

⁶⁴ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement> (access: 13/09/2022).

⁶⁵ <https://ukcop26.org/> (access: 13/09/2022).

⁶⁶ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (access: 13/09/2022).

⁶⁷ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, *OJ L 198*, 22.6.2020, p. 13.

⁶⁸ https://eismea.ec.europa.eu/about-eismea_en (access: 14/09/2022).

⁶⁹ https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/index_en (access: 14/09/2022).

To this end, this programme seeks to increase the competitiveness, capacity building and sustainability of businesses, including those operating in the tourism sector. The sustainability of businesses is important for maintaining their long-term competitiveness and contributes to the transition to a more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable EU, which should go hand in hand with the digital transformation and commitment to sustainable business practices. The SMP also supports monitoring compliance with applicable consumer and safety rules. It also aims to inform companies and individuals of their rights by providing them with appropriate tools, information and assistance to make informed decisions and improve their participation in EU policymaking. In addition, the SMP aims to strengthen regulatory and administrative cooperation, including through training programmes, by sharing best practices and strengthening knowledge and skills bases, including the use of strategic public procurement.

The SMP also covers the area of financial reporting, audit and statistics in order to contribute to the transparency and orderly functioning of the capital markets in the EU and to strengthen investor protection. Another objective of the SMP is to support the implementation and control of the EU legislation providing for a high level of protection of human, animal and plant health, the protection of human and animal welfare and the safety of human food and feed, respect for the principles of sustainable development and ensuring a high level of consumer protection. To conclude, the SMP presents a new strategy in the execution and observance of the EU legislation in relation to the functioning of the European internal market. It encourages the establishment of conditions that enable favourable development for all participants in the internal market, including companies, citizens, especially consumers, as well as workers, representatives of civil society and public bodies.

REFERENCES

1. EU LEGAL SOURCES

1. Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, *OJ C 326*, 26.10.2012.
2. Treaty on European Union (Treaty of Maastricht), *OJ C 191*, 29.7.1992.
3. Single European Act, *OJ L 169*, 29.6.1987.
4. Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (Treaty of Rome) signed on 25.03.1957, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teec/sign> (access: 08/09/2022.)
5. Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1288/2013, *OJ L 189*, 28.5.2021.
6. Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and

- dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, *OJ L 170, 12.5.2021.*
7. Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme and repealing Decision (EU) 2015/2240, *OJ L 166, 11.5.2021.*
 8. Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing a programme for the internal market, competitiveness of enterprises, including small and medium-sized enterprises, the area of plants, animals, food and feed, and European statistics (Single Market Programme) and repealing Regulations (EU) No 99/2013, (EU) No 1287/2013, (EU) No 254/2014 and (EU) No 652/2014, *OJ L 153, 3.5.2021.*
 9. Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017, *OJ L 107, 26.3.2021.*
 10. Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088, *OJ L 198, 22.6.2020.*
 11. Regulation (EU) 2019/1020 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on market surveillance and compliance of products and amending Directive 2004/42/EC and Regulations (EC) No 765/2008 and (EU) No 305/2011, *OJ L 169, 25.6.2019.*
 12. Regulation (EU) 2019/518 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 as regards certain charges on cross-border payments in the Union and currency conversion charges, *OJ L 91, 29.3.2019.*
 13. Regulation (EU) 2019/515 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the mutual recognition of goods lawfully marketed in another Member State and repealing Regulation (EC) No 764/2008, *OJ L 91, 29.3.2019.*
 14. Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012, *OJ L 193, 30.7.2018.*
 15. Regulation (EU) 2017/826 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2017 on establishing a Union programme to support specific activities enhancing the involvement of consumers and other financial services end-users in Union policymaking in the area of financial services for the period of 2017-2020, *OJ L 129, 19.5.2017.*
 16. Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012,

- (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation), *OJ L 95, 7.4.2017.*
17. Regulation (EU) No 1287/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing a Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014 - 2020) and repealing Decision No 1639/2006/EC, *OJ L 347, 20.12.2013.*
 18. Regulation (EU) No. 99/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 January 2013 on the European Statistical Agenda from 2013 to 2017, *OJ L 39, 9.2.2013.*
 19. Regulation (EU) No 260/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2012 establishing technical and business requirements for credit transfers and direct debits in euro and amending Regulation (EC) No 924/2009, *OJ L 94, 30.3.2012.*
 20. Regulation (EC) No 924/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on cross-border payments in the Community and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2560/2001, *OJ L 266, 9.10.2009.*
 21. Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009 on European statistics and repealing Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1101/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the transmission of data subject to statistical confidentiality to the Statistical Office of the European Communities, Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 on Community Statistics, and Council Decision 89/382/EEC, Euratom establishing a Committee on the Statistical Programmes of the European Communities, *OJ L 87, 31.3.2009.*
 22. Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93, *OJ L 218, 13.8.2008.*
 23. Council Regulation (EC) No 139/2004 of 20 January 2004 on the control of concentrations between undertakings (the EC Merger Regulation), *OJ L 24, 29.1.2004.*
 24. Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2003 of 16 December 2002 on the implementation of the rules on competition laid down in Articles 81 and 82 of the Treaty, *OJ L 1, 4.1.2003, p. 1.*
 25. Directive (EU) 2020/1828 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2020 on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers and repealing Directive 2009/22/EC, *OJ L 409, 4.12.2020.*
 26. Directive (EU) 2019/2161 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives

- 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules, *OJ L 328, 18.12.2019.*
27. Directive (EU) 2015/2366 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on payment services in the internal market, amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2009/110/EC and 2013/36/EU and Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010, and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC, *OJ L 337, 23.12.2015.*
28. Directive 2014/25/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors and repealing Directive 2004/17/EC, *OJ L 94, 28.3.2014.*
29. Directive 2014/24/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on public procurement and repealing Directive 2004/18/EC, *OJ L 94, 28.3.2014.*
30. Directive 2014/23/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the award of concession contracts, *OJ L 94, 28.3.2014.*
31. Directive 2013/11/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on alternative dispute resolution for consumer disputes and amending Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 and Directive 2009/22/EC, *OJ L 165, 18.6.2013.*
32. Directive 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on consumer rights, amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directive 1999/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 85/577/EEC and Directive 97/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, *OJ L 304, 22.11.2011.*
33. Directive 2007/64/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2007 on payment services in the internal market amending Directives 97/7/EC, 2002/65/EC, 2005/60/EC and 2006/48/EC and repealing Directive 97/5/EC, *OJ L 319, 5.12.2007.*
34. Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, *OJ L 376, 27.12.2006.*
35. Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 September 2005 on the recognition of professional qualifications, *OJ L 255, 30.9.2005.*
36. Directive 2005/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2005 concerning unfair business-to-consumer commercial practices in the internal market and amending Council Directive 84/450/EEC, Directives 97/7/EC, 98/27/EC and 2002/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No 2006/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council ('Unfair Commercial Practices Directive'), *OJ L 149, 11.6.2005.*
37. Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC, *OJ L 158, 30.4.2004.*

38. Directive 2001/95/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 December 2001 on general product safety, *OJ L 11, 15.1.2002.*
39. Directive 2000/31/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2000 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market ('Directive on electronic commerce'), *OJ L 178, 17.7.2000.*
40. Directive 98/6/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 1998 on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers, *OJ L 80, 18.3.1998.*
41. Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (notified under document number C(2003) 1422), *OJ L 124, 20.5.2003.*
42. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe, COM/2020/103 final.
43. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Single Market Act, Twelve levers to boost growth and strengthen confidence "Working together to create new growth", COM/2011/0206 final.
44. Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - "Think Small First" - A "Small Business Act" for Europe, COM/2008/0394 final.
45. COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT, Accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mutual recognition on goods lawfully marketed in another Member State, COM (2017) 796 final.

2. COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

46. Case C-309/02 *Radlberger Getränkegesellschaft and S. Spitz* [2004] ECLI:EU:C:2004:799.
47. Case C-7/68 *Commission v Italy* [1968] ECLI:EU:C:1968:51.
48. Case C-8/74 *Procureur du Roi v Benoît and Gustave Dassonville* [1974] ECLI:EU:C:1974:82.
49. Case C-110/05 *Commission v Italy* [2009] ECLI:EU:C:2009:66.
50. Case C-76/90 *Säger* [1990] ECLI:EU:C:1991:331.
51. C-120/78 *Rewe v Bundesmonopolverwaltung für Branntwein* [1978], ECLI:EU:C:1979:42.

3. BOOKS AND ARTICLES

52. BODIROGA-VUKOBRAT, N., HORAK, H. and MARTINOVIĆ, A., *Temeljne gospodarske slobode u Europskoj uniji*, Zagreb, Inženjerski biro, 2011.

53. BODRIGA-VUKOBRAT, N., *Socijalna sigurnost i tržišno natjecanje: europski zahtjevi i nacionalna rješenja*, Rijeka, Pravni fakultet Sveučilišta u Rijeci, 2008.
54. CHAJEHLUDI, W., "Faut-il repenser le droit européen des concentrations après l'affaire Alstom/Siemens ?", *C.D.E.*, 2019/2-3.
55. DUBOUT, E. and MAITROT DE LA MOTTE, A. (ed.), *L'unité des libertés de circulation*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2013.
56. EZRACHI, A., *EU Competition Law: An Analytical Guide to the Leading Cases*, Oxford, Hart Publishing, 2021.
57. HAFNER, T., "The free movement of capital in the European Union", in R. Grote and T. Marauhn (eds.), *The Regulation of International Financial Markets: Perspectives for Reform*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
58. KAPURAL, M., "Sloboda kretanja radnika u proširenoj Europskoj uniji i njezin utjecaj na Hrvatsku", in K. Ott (ed.), *Pridruživanje Hrvatske Europskoj uniji: ususret izazovima pregovora*, Zagreb, Institut za javne financije, 2005.
59. PAROCHE, E. and DUPREY, J.-S., "Le REC : une coresponsabilité dans la définition de la politique de concurrence de l'Union européenne ?", *Rev. Aff. Eur.*, 2015/4, pp. 615-620.
60. KATSORCHI, P., *Le réseau des règles de droit international européen de la concurrence*, Bruxelles, Bruylant, 2022.
61. VUKIČEVIĆ, A., "European Union in function of Development and Promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises" in D. Duić (ed.), *International Scientific Conference „EU Law in Context – Adjustment to Membership and Challenges of the Enlargement“ in Osijek, 14-15 June 2018*, Osijek: Faculty of Law, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek, 2018, pp. 700-709.

4. WEBSITE REFERENCES

62. <https://europa.eu/!Jt84Tb> (access: 19/04/2022).
63. <https://een.ec.europa.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).
64. <https://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).
65. <https://clustercollaboration.eu/> (access: 10/09/2022).
66. <https://www.beuc.eu/> (access: 11/09/2022).
67. <https://www.anec.eu/> (access: 11/09/2022).
68. <https://www.finance-watch.org/> (access: 12/09/2022).
69. <https://betterfinance.eu/> (access: 12/09/2022).
70. https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/consumer-rights-and-complaints/resolve-your-consumer-complaint/european-consumer-centres-network-ecc-net_en (access: 12/09/2022).
71. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement> (access: 13/09/2022).
72. <https://ukcop26.org/> (access: 13/09/2022).
73. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/> (access: 13/09/2022).
74. https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/about-eisma_en (access: 14/09/2022).
75. https://madec.ec.europa.eu/index_en (access: 14/09/2022).