

Sharing economy as a driver of innovation, growth and jobs

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

Having regard to:

- the ALDE Party resolution ‘Regulation in the Digital Economy – the shared economy’ adopted at the 2014 Congress in Lisbon, Portugal;
- the ALDE Party resolution ‘Reclaiming Liberalism: A liberal response to digitalisation’ adopted at the 2015 Congress in Budapest, Hungary;
- the ALDE Party’s 2nd Digital Working Group on 31 May 2016 on ‘Sharing Reinvented: Boosting the sharing economy through technology and innovation’.

Welcomes:

- the increased competition, consumer choice, and opportunities for entrepreneurs arising from the sharing economy;
- the opportunities for job creation, economic growth, competitiveness, a more inclusive job market and a more circular economy through the more efficient use of resources, skills and other assets;
- the estimated growth revenue in the EU from the sharing economy. According to the European Commission, gross revenue in the EU was estimated to be €28 billion in 2015 and the growth has been strong since 2013 and further accelerated in 2015. Going forward, estimates are that the sharing economy could add substantially to the EU economy.

Recognises that:

- although the sharing economy attracts consumers because of convenience, cost-savings and higher quality of service, trust is a crucial factor for which the continued growth of the sharing economy is contingent upon;
- digital platforms can lead to consumer empowerment as their reputational feedback mechanisms give consumers a more powerful voice in economic transactions, lead to higher quality products and services and more transparency that prevent market failure;
- concerns from consumers and resistance from traditional market operators have prompted the establishment of an alliance of major global cities to produce a common framework that would apply to sharing economy companies in all these cities;

Resolution:

Sharing economy as a driver of innovation, growth and jobs

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Economics and EU
Single Market

Page:

1

- companies utilising these new business models based on reputation and trust must take the responsibility to adopt measures to discourage illegal activities while providing new consumer safety features. In certain markets accompanying measures are needed;
- the sharing economy is contributing to a new reality of work and consumer behaviour with growing individual expectations, and diverse and more flexible working conditions.

Is concerned:

- about the different national approaches taken so far by Member States on regulating the internet and the sharing economy. This fragmented approach creates uncertainty which may hamper innovation, job creation and growth and thus increase compatibilities between Member States;
- that digital platforms could evolve towards a monopoly, where the entity could set its own, independent standards;
- that some big city mayors, worried about the impact of the shared economy on housing and some existing industries, may end up over-regulating and stifling this emerging economic activity.

Considers that:

- only a single market approach can be taken with regard to the sharing economy, as fragmentation of the single market through local or national rules prevents European companies of the sharing economy from scaling up at European level.

Calls on:

- the European Commission to take initiatives, in line with EU competences, to support innovation and entrepreneurship, remove barriers to digital trade, facilitate market access to new entrants and preserve the integrity of the single market;
- all levels of Government to support the further development of the sharing economy by identifying artificial barriers and relevant legislation hindering its growth and by modernising outdated legislation;
- the European Commission to set up a stakeholder group, involving private operators and public authorities with relevant competences, in charge of promoting best practices in the sharing economy sector that address, amongst other aspects, innovative regulatory solutions;
- the Commission to identify the required new dynamic consumer protection legislation;
- the European Commission to further promote public-private cooperation in order to address the existing barriers within the single

Resolution:

Sharing economy as a driver of innovation, growth and jobs

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Economics and EU
Single Market

Page:

2



market in particular to the increased use of digital identity to build consumers trust in online transactions, to the development of digital solutions for the payment of taxes, and to providing cross border insurance schemes in the sharing.

Resolution:

Sharing economy as a driver of innovation, growth and jobs

Year and Congress:

Warsaw, Poland 2016

Category:

Economics and EU
Single Market

Page:

3