



Statement on the IMCO vote on the draft Regulation Promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services (P2B)

[Brussels, December 6 2018] Today's vote in the IMCO committee is a missed opportunity to strengthen European online platforms and startups. The reality of thousands of thriving platform businesses in Europe has been put behind the political will to bash large tech companies and to address individual cases.

The main aspects of this regulation are framed around specific cases or business models however will have to be implemented by thousands of platform businesses in Europe. Further, many of the compromises adopted today focus solely on online businesses, regardless of whether they are larger or smaller than their business counterpart.

Online platforms find novel ways to make information, prices, products and services more transparent for consumers. Many online platforms in Europe act in sectors where the market is not entirely liberalised yet or oligopolies are abusing their power over the consumer. Instead of empowering users e.g. through reviews and ratings, the competitiveness of European online platforms will be limited through a series of new obligations.

We hope that the trilogues will allow policymakers to refocus the text on it's principle-based approach and allow startups and scaleups in Europe to thrive.

The statements above can be attributed to:

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Allied for Startups is a worldwide network of over 40 advocacy organisations focused on improving the policy environment for startups. We are working together to create a consensus on policies that can positively impact startups and grow digital entrepreneurship and digital economy at large. Our mission is to ensure that the voices of startups are heard in government.