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Joint statement - Major business and consumer umbrella groups call on EU Parliament to safeguard the IMCO committee

The EU is at crossroads of what is next for its Single Market. The European Council confirmed it is a crucial question by commissioning a High-level Report on the Future of the Single Market for the March European Council of 2024.

The Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) has been at the center of the European Parliament's continuous work in establishing a harmonised framework for the Single Market for the benefit of both consumers and businesses throughout many years. Businesses and consumers highly value and appreciate this endeavour. With a new impetus on the Single Market future design, adherence to the Treaties and the work on the green and digital transformation will remain crucial.

It is why we express our grave concerns about the fact that there is an ongoing discussion in the European Parliament about a possible dissolution of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) to merge it with other parliamentary committees in the context of the debated committee reform.

- BusinessEurope and BEUC call for a strongly mandated IMCO in next legislature instead. It should be the committee ensuring compatibility of legal texts with the freedoms and rights provided by the Treaty and reflect the overall EU political commitment to the Single Market for the benefit of businesses and consumers.
- The IMCO mandate and workstream is strongly rooted in the Treaty articles, which singles it out from the others with more limited or no EU competences at all. This warrants a dedicated committee and justifies its outstanding role in the Parliament.

We trust this call by the major European business and consumer organisations will be heard and the European Parliament will maintain a dedicated and strongly mandated self-standing IMCO that would continue to lead the way in next phase of construction of the Single Market.