

## **SUMMARY**

### **of the Opinion " A European agenda for the collaborative economy " COM (2016) 356**

#### **The Chamber of Deputies:**

- Draws the attention on the necessity to assure equitable working conditions and a consumer's adequate and durable social protection;
- Considers that approaching the collaborative economy based on self-regulation, voluntary standards and authorized schemes must not be too permissive; it would be preferable that firmer regulations should be imposed in order to assure a protection level of the consumer who is the beneficiary of products and services and it should be similar to the rest of the economic environment. Consequently, it considers that at least the basic community regulations of the consumer's protection should be imposed (for example: excluding abusive clauses, eliminating unfair commercial practices, furnishing safe products which should not affect the consumer's life, the health and safety, etc.).

#### **Concerning the impact of these proposals on Romania, it underlines the following:**

- Taking into consideration the area where the resources are localized and the interested users, the main aspects which are linked to the development of this type of economy refer to the availability of the goods and services which are going to be used in common and the information technologies;
- As the goods and services will be used in common, by both users and suppliers, the trust is a fundamental element and the technological development is a key-element in the development of trust.

#### **The main challenges which must be faced are the following:**

- a. The low trust level concerning the provided products and services;
- b. The responsibility regime;
- c. The additional administrative burdens which are due to the traditional online and off-line providers;

#### **The above-mentioned challenges lead to the necessity of granting a special attention to:**

- a. Adopting common standards;
- b. Applying taxes to the activities, even to those which have an occasional character, however making the difference between profit activities and non-profit ones;
- c. Establishing the legal responsibilities of the involved sides;

- d. Increasing the public opinion awareness regarding the initiatives of the collaborative economy.

The measures proposed by this Communication of the European Commission are principally in favour of diminishing the social gaps between our country and the EU more developed countries.

Romania has the chance to promote its competitive IT sector, if we take into consideration the fact that the Internet services and the communications represent a solid mechanism for promoting the collaborative economy in Europe. This new opportunity could be consolidated by opening industrial parks and research centres in the field, investments which are strategic for the Romanian economy.

To conclude, the Chamber of Deputies appreciates this Communication as it supports the innovation in a pro-active way, the competitiveness and the development opportunities offered by a modernized economy, it supports equitable working conditions and the consumer's adequate and durable social protection, also promoting the norms and obligations which are applicable to citizens.