

## Thumbs up for the Collaborative Economy

The European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Affairs Committee yesterday voted to accept the 'Collaborative Economy' report after several months of negotiations and discussions. MEPs backed amendments to support innovation and give consumers choice in the market place.

Internal Market Committee Chairman Vicky Ford MEP (Conservative, East of England) said, "It is important to continue to support innovation which encourages entrepreneurs such as those who helped create Airbnb and BlaBlaCar. The collaborative economy has brought increased choice for consumers and the vote helps to ensure that those choices will not be restricted and the collaborative, or gig, economy is given space to flourish.

"It is important to recognise that changes have had an impact on traditional operators and therefore workers' rights and consumer protection issues need to be considered. However, there is already a lot of regulation that affects operators in the collaborative economy, instead of re-writing the complete rule book we need to make sure the one we have already it is for purpose."

'If we want digital giants to grow in Europe, we need to make sure we do not put a handbrake on innovation. As a result of the vote we are encouraging entrepreneurs and peer-to-peer platforms involved in diverse forms of the gig economy, including new ideas such as car sharing, co-boating and even co-cooking."