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REPORT

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2017
(2016/2306(INI))

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

Rapporteur: Gunnar Hökmark

Rapporteur for the opinion (*):
Jean-Paul Denanot, Committee on Budgets

(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

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(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2017
(2016/2306(INI))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and in particular Articles 121(2), 126, 136 and Protocol No 12 thereof,

– having regard to Protocol (No 1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) on the role of National Parliaments in the European Union,

– having regard to Protocol No 2 to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality,

– having regard to the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union,

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1175/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies[1],

– having regard to Council Directive 2011/85/EU of 8 November 2011 on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States[2],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1174/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 on enforcement measures to correct excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the euro area[3],

– having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 1177/2011 of 8 November 2011 amending Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure[4],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances[5],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 November 2011 on the effective enforcement of budgetary surveillance in the euro area[6],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 473/2013 of the European Parliament and of the

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[1] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 12.
[2] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 41.
[3] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 8.
[4] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 33.
[5] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 25.
[6] OJ L 306, 23.11.2011, p. 1.

Council of 21 May 2013 on common provisions for monitoring and assessing draft budgetary plans and ensuring the correction of excessive deficit of the Member States in the euro area[1],

– having regard to Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the strengthening of economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States in the euro area experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability[2],

– having regard to the Council conclusions on the Annual Growth Survey 2016 of 15 January 2016,

– having regard to the Council conclusions on the Fiscal Sustainability Report 2015 of 8 March 2016,

– having regard to the European Council conclusions of 17-18 March 2016,

– having regard to the Euro group Statement of 9 September 2016 on common principles for improving expenditure allocation,

– having regard to the ECB Annual Report 2015,

– having regard to the European Commission’s Autumn 2016 European Economic Forecast of 9 November 2016,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 13 January 2015 entitled 'Making the best use of the flexibility within the existing rules of the Stability and Growth Pact' (COM(2015)0012),

– having regard to the Communication of the Commission of 16 November 2016 on the ‘Annual Growth Survey 2017’ (COM(2016)0725),

– having regard to the Communication of the Commission of 16 November 2016 on the recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area (COM(2016) 726),

– having regard to the Communication of the Commission of 16 November 2016 'Towards a positive fiscal stance for the Euro Area"' (COM(2016)0726),

– having regard to the Communication of the Commission of 16 November 2016 on the ‘Alert Mechanism Report 2017’ (COM(2016)0728),

– having regard to the debate with national Parliaments in the context of the 2017 edition of the European Parliamentary Week,

– having regard to the Report on completing Europe’s economic and monetary union (‘Five Presidents’ Report’),

[1] OJ L 140, 27.5.2013, p. 11.
[2] OJ L 140, 27.5.2013, p. 1.

– having regard to the Commission communication of 21 October 2015 on steps towards Completing Economic and Monetary Union (COM(2015)0600),

– having regard to its resolution of 24 June 2015 on the review of the economic governance framework: stocktaking and challenges;[1]

– having regard to the Eurofound's European Restructuring Monitor annual report 2015,

– having regard to the G20 Leader’s Communiqué delivered at the Hangzhou Summit of 4-5 September 2016,

– having regard to the Statement of the President of the ECB at the 34th meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee on 7 October 2016,

– having regard to the COP 21 agreement adopted at the Paris Climate Conference on 12 December 2015,

– having regard to the resolution of the European Committee of the Regions on the 2016 European Semester and in view of the 2017 Annual Growth Survey (12 October 2016),

– having regard to the Annual Report on European SME's 2015/2016,

– having regard to the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council dated 26th August 2016 on the implementation of Directive 2011/7/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on combating late payment in commercial transactions,

– having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the opinions of the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Regional Development (A8-0039/2017),

A. whereas the European Union’s economy is slowly recovering and growing at a moderate pace, albeit unevenly across Member States;

B. whereas real GDP growth in 2016 is projected by the Commission at 1.8 % for the EU and at 1.7 % for the euro area, and in 2017 at 1.6 % and 1.7 %, respectively, and the government debt is set to stand at 86.0 % in the EU and 91.6 % in the euro area in 2016; whereas the euro area deficit is set to stand at 1.7 % GDP in 2016, 1.5% in 2017 and 2018;

C. Whereas consumer spending is the current key driver of growth and is expected to remain as such in 2017; whereas, however, Europe still faces an important 'investment gap' where investment remains well below pre-crisis levels;

D. whereas the employment rate in the EU is growing, although unevenly and at an insufficient pace, reducing unemployment in the euro area to 10.1 % in 2016, but not

[1] Texts adopted, P8_TA(2015)0238.

enough to significantly curb youth and long-term unemployment;

E. whereas this recovery in the labour markets, and growth, is different between the Member States and remains fragile, and whereas there is a need to promote upward convergence in the EU;

F. whereas growth has to an important degree relied upon unconventional monetary policies, which cannot last forever; whereas this supports the call for a three-pronged policy approach of growth-friendly investment, sustainable structural reforms and responsible public finances through a consistent implementation of the Stability and Growth (SGP) pact across Member States, with full respect of its existing flexibility clauses:

G. whereas some Member States still carry a very high private and public debt, exceeding 60 % of GDP threshold as set within the SGP;

H. whereas the Commission's assessments of the draft budgetary plans (DBPs) for 2017 of euro area Member States finds that no DBP for 2017 has been found in particularly serious non-compliance with the requirements of the SGP, but that, in several cases however, the planned fiscal adjustments fall short, or risk doing so, of what is required by the SGP;

I. whereas the Commission's assessments on the euro area Member State's Draft Budgetary Plan for 2017 finds that only nine Member States are compliant with the requirements under the SGP;

G. whereas the long-term sustainability of public finances of EU Member States is a matter of concern for intergenerational fairness;

K. whereas the size of government debt can be affected both by contingent and implicit liabilities;

L. whereas some Member States record very high current account surpluses and European macroimbalances are still large;

M. whereas the EU requires important additional private and public investment efforts, in particular in education, research, ICT and innovation, as well as new jobs, business and companies, in order to materialise its growth potential and to close the current 'investment gap' where investment remains below pre-crisis level; whereas this requires, in particular, an improved regulatory environment;

N. whereas the high level of non-performing loans remains a serious challenge in a number of Member States; whereas credit growth is recovering gradually but it is still below pre-crisis levels;

O. whereas in order to improve the EU's insufficient level of global competitiveness and increase its economic growth, a better implementation of the new policy mix, intelligent structural reforms in the Member States, and the completion of the single market are necessary;

P. whereas economies with more punitive bankruptcy regimes forego the potential growth in value added and employment which calls for the full implementation of the Small Business Act second chance principle by all Member States;

Q. whereas European competitiveness also depends heavily on non-prices elements related to innovation, technology and organisational capabilities, rather than solely on prices, costs and wages;

R. whereas the late payments directive was designed to help companies that are facing high costs or even bankruptcies due to late payments by private and public companies; whereas the external ex-post evaluation revealed that public entities in more than half of all Member States are not yet respecting the 30-day payment limit imposed by law; whereas the report has identified that Member States under adjustment programmes have difficulties applying the directive where prompt payment of current invoices has to be balanced against accumulated debt repayment;

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 reaffirming the strategy of a virtuous triangle of private and public investment, socially balanced structural reforms and responsible public finances, and calls for a better implementation of this policy mix; agrees that faster progress on the adoption of reforms, in line with the country-specific recommendations, is needed to deliver on growth and jobs, in order to support the economic recovery; deplores, therefore, the very low implementation rate of country-specific recommendations, which declined from 11 % in 2012 to only 4 % in 2015; stresses that Member States will need to step up their efforts to reform if they want to return to growth and create jobs; supports the Commission in its priority of boosting jobs, growth and investment for the Union;

2. Observes the current excessive reliance on the monetary policy of the European Central Bank and notes that monetary policy alone is insufficient to stimulate growth when investments and sustainable structural reforms are lacking;

3 Agrees with the Commission that the euro area would need to rely increasingly on domestic demand; considers that stronger domestic demand would be better for the euro area's sustainable growth;

4. Notes that growth in 2016 is continuing at a positive moderate pace, surpassing the pre-crisis level, but that the modest growth must be seen in the perspective of an extraordinary monetary policy and that it remains weak and uneven between Member States; notes with concern that GDP and productivity growth rates remain below full potential, and that there is therefore no time for complacency, and that this moderate recovery requires relentless efforts if it is to achieve greater resilience through higher growth and employment;

5. Notes that the referendum in the United Kingdom has created uncertainties for the European economy and the financial markets; notes that the outcome of the recent presidential election in the United States of America has created political uncertainty

that is expected to affect the European economy, not the least regarding international trade relations;

6. Notes with concerns the backlash against globalization and the rise of protectionism;

7. Finds that while unemployment is, on average, gradually decreasing, and that activity rates are growing, structural challenges persist in many Member States; notes that the rates of long-term and youth unemployment remain high; underlines that inclusive labour market reforms, with full respect for the social dialogue, are necessary in the Member States concerned if these structural deficiencies are to be addressed;8.
Stresses that the investment rate in the EU, and in the euro area, is still far below pre-crisis levels; believes that this 'investment gap' needs to be filled in by private and public investments, and underlines that only targeted investment can bring about visible results in a short timeframe and at an appropriate scale; agrees with the Commission that the low funding cost environment supports frontloading investments, in particular in infrastructure;

Investment

7. Agrees with the Commission that access to finance and the strengthening of the single market are crucial for businesses to innovate and grow; stresses that new capital and liquidity requirements, albeit necessary to enhance the resilience of the banking sector, should not undermine banks' ability to lend to the real economy; believes more efforts should be done to boost SME access to finance; calls on the Commission, therefore, to step up its efforts to improve the financing environment;

8. Stresses that private and public investments in human capital and infrastructure are of the utmost importance; considers that there is a strong need to facilitate investment in areas such as education, innovation and research and development, which are crucial factors for a more competitive European economy;

9. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to extend the duration, and double the amount, of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI); stresses that geographical and sectorial coverage must be improved significantly if the objectives set out in the regulation are to be achieved; stresses that EFSI should also attract finance for projects with a cross-border dimension, balanced across the Union; stresses the importance of better coordination between the Member States, the Commission and the European Investment Advisory Hub;

10. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to speed up and maximise the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) in order to take advantage of all internal growth drivers and to promote upward convergence;

11. Notes that a credible financial system and its institutions are crucial for attracting investment and growth in the European economy; stresses that safety and stability in the current financial system has increased compared to pre-crisis level; notes, this notwithstanding, that some pressing challenges remain unaddressed, such as the stock of

nonperforming loans (NPLs) accumulated during the financial crisis;

12. Stresses that a fully functioning Capital Markets Union (CMU) can, in a longer perspective, provide alternative financing to SMEs, complementing that of the banking sector, and bring about more diversified sources of financing for the economy in general; calls on the Commission to accelerate its work on the CMU with a view to creating a more efficient allocation of capital throughout the EU, improving the depth of EU capital markets, increasing diversification for investors, stimulating long-term investment and making full use of the EU's innovative financial instruments designed to support access to capital markets for SMEs; stresses that the completion of the CMU should not undermine the achievements obtained so far, but should strive to be of ultimate benefit to the European citizens;

13 Stresses that increased financing of investments is needed; calls for a well-functioning financial system where increased stability and existing cross-border institutions can facilitate liquidity and market making, especially for SMEs; notes as well, in this regard, that high-growth companies have issues with access to finance; calls for the Commission to identify and implement projects that support and attract market-based investment for such companies; underlines that reforms regarding banking structure must not hamper liquidity making;

14. Encourages a thorough, step-by-step completion of the Banking Union and the development of the CMU, with the aim of increasing resilience in the banking sector, contributing to financial stability, creating a stable environment for investment and growth, and avoiding fragmentation of the euro area financial market; stresses, in this context, the principle of liability, and underlines that moral hazard must be avoided, in particular in order to protect citizens; urges respect for the existing common rules;

15. Highlights that public and private investment is crucial to allow for the transition towards a low-carbon and circular economy; recalls the commitments of the European Union, particularly in the Paris Agreement, to finance the deployment of clean technologies, the scaling-up of renewable energies and energy efficiency, and the overall reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;

16. Emphasises that reliable investment requires a stable regulatory environment that allows for a return on investment; considers that predictable rules, efficient and transparent public administrations, effective legal systems, a level playing field and a reduced administrative burden are crucial factors for attracting investment; stresses that 40 % of the country-specific recommendations for 2016 address obstacles to investment which the local and regional authorities can help to remove; calls, furthermore, on the Commission to take the necessary action on the basis of the 'Call for evidence: EU Regulatory Framework for Financial Services', to reduce red tape, simplify regulation and improve the financing environment;

17. Recognises the untapped potential for productivity growth and investment that could be reaped if single market rules were fully enforced, and the product and services markets were better integrated; recalls the importance of country-specific recommendations in pointing out key areas for actions in Member States;

18. Agrees with the Commission that the benefits of trade are not always recognised in the

public debate, and stresses that international trade can be a significant source of jobs for Europeans and a crucial contribution for growth; reiterates that more than 30 million jobs are now supported by exports from the EU; underlines that international trade agreements should not undermine European regulatory, social and environmental standards, but rather strengthen global standards;

19. Notes with concern that the EU share of global foreign direct investments flows have fallen significantly since the crisis; calls on the Commission and the Member States to step up efforts to improve the business environment for investments, inter alia by fully implementing and enforcing EU Single Market legislation; agrees that faster progress on the adoption of sustainable structural reforms, in line with the country-specific recommendations, is needed to enhance the EU's competitiveness, to promote a favourable environment for businesses (especially SMEs) and investment, and to deliver on growth and jobs, as well as to foster upward convergence between Member States;

20. Insists on the need to safeguard the long-term investment capacities of financial institutions, the profitability of low-risk savings, and of long-term pension products, in order not to jeopardise the sustainability of savings and pensions provisions of European citizens;

21. Stresses that sustainable structural reforms need to be complemented by longer-term investment in education, research, innovation and human capital, notably education and training aimed at providing new skills and knowledge; believes that partnerships between policy-makers, legislators, researchers, producers and innovators can also be considered as tools to promote investment, deliver smart and sustainable growth, and complement investment programmes;

Structural reforms

22. Agrees that sustainable structural reforms in product and service markets, as well as in inclusive labour, health, housing and pension markets, remain a priority in the Member States in order efficiently to support the recovery, to tackle high unemployment, to boost competitiveness, fair competition and growth potential, and to improve the efficiency of research and innovation systems, without watering down worker's rights, consumer protection or environmental standards;

23. Considers that well-functioning and productive labour markets, combined with an adequate level of social protection and dialogue, have proven to be quicker to recover from the economic downturn; calls on Member States to reduce segmentation of the labour markets, increase labour market participation and upgrade skills, including by means of a stronger focus on training and lifelong learning to enhance employability and productivity; observes that some Member States still have a considerable need for reform if they are to make their labour markets more resilient and inclusive;

24. Underlines the importance of launching or continuing the implementation of coherent and sustainable structural reforms for stability in the medium and long terms; stresses that the EU and its Member States cannot compete on general or labour costs alone, but need to invest more in research, innovation and development, education and skills, and resource efficiency, at both national and European level;

25. Is concerned about the effects of demographic developments on public finances and sustainable growth, conditioned by, inter alia, low birth rates, ageing societies, emigration and the influx of refugees; points in particular to the impact of ageing populations on pension and healthcare systems in the EU; notes that, owing to different demographic structures, the effects of these developments will vary across Member States, but warns that the already foreseeable funding costs will have a significant impact on public finances

26. Recalls that an important factor for ensuring the sustainability of pension systems is to achieve and maintain a high employment rate; points as well, in this context, to the importance of using migrants' skills in better ways in order to adapt to labour market needs;

27. Notes that the Member States currently spend 5-11 % of their respective GDPs on healthcare, a share that is expected to increase considerably in the coming decades as a result of demographic changes; urges the Commission to focus efforts on cost-effective spending on high-quality healthcare, and on universal access thereto, through cooperation and sharing of best practices at EU level and by addressing the sustainability of quality healthcare systems in country-specific recommendations;

28. Welcomes the fact that, on average, youth unemployment is declining, although it is still too high; notes that stark differences remain across the Member States that call for continued reforms to facilitate the entry of young people into the labour market, thereby ensuring intergenerational fairness; emphasises, in this regard, the importance of the Youth Guarantee, and calls for continued EU funding for this crucial programme; agrees with the Commission that more action is needed from the Member States to fight youth unemployment, particularly in enhancing the effectiveness of the Youth Guarantee;

29. Stresses the importance of responsible and growth-friendly wage developments, providing a good standard of living, in line with productivity, taking account of competitiveness, and the importance of an effective social dialogue for a well-functioning social market economy;

30. Agrees that taxation must support investments and job creation; calls for reforms in taxation with a view to tackling the high tax burden on labour in Europe**,** improving tax collection, combating tax avoidance and tax evasion, and making tax systems simpler, fairer and more efficient; highlights the need for better coordination of administrative practices in the field of taxation; calls for further transparency among the Member States in the field of corporate taxation;

Fiscal responsibility and structure of public finances

31. Notes that the Commission considers that fiscal sustainability remains a priority, and that challenges have receded since the peak of the crisis and they may not be a major source of risks for the euro area as a whole in the short term;

32. Notes as well that the Commission considers that challenges persist, and that legacies inherited from the crisis, as well as structural deficiencies, remain and need to be addressed if long-term risks are to be avoided;

33. Underlines the fact that all Member States are obliged to comply with the SGP, with full respect of its existing flexibility clauses; points, in this regard, also to the importance of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG), and urges the Commission to submit a comprehensive assessment of its experience in implementing it, as a basis for the necessary steps to be taken in accordance with the TEU and the TFEU with the aim of incorporating the substance of this Treaty into the legal framework of the EU;

34. Notes that while six Member States continue to be under the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP), there is a decrease of the average public deficit level, which is expected to have remained below 2 % in 2016 and to continue to fall in the coming years, and that only two Member States are expected to remain under the EDP in 2017; notes that, in several cases, the large increase in debt in the recent past is also the result of bank recapitalisation and low growth; underlines that when interest rates begin to rise again, difficulties in improving public finances could increase;

35. Emphasises the Commission’s role as guardian of the treaties; underlines the necessity for an objective and transparent evaluation of the application and enforcement of commonly agreed legislation;36. Insists that there should be no differentiated treatment between Member States; notes that only a fiscal policy that respects and follows Union law will lead to credibility and trust between Member States, and serve as a cornerstone for the completion of EMU and the trust of the financial markets;

37. Invites the Commission and the Council to be as specific as possible when addressing fiscal recommendations under the preventive and corrective arm of the SGP in order to increase transparency and enforceability of the recommendations; underlines the need to include in the recommendations, under the preventive arm, both the target date of the country-specific medium-term-objective and the fiscal adjustment required to achieve or remain at it;

38. Considers that macroeconomic imbalances inside Member States should be addressed in line with the Macroeconomic Imbalance Procedure (MIP) through efforts involving all Member States, building on relevant reforms and investments; stresses that each Member State must deliver on its individual responsibilities in this context; notes that high current account surpluses imply the possibility of greater domestic demand; stresses that high public and private debt levels represent a significant vulnerability, and that responsible fiscal policies and higher growth are needed to reduce them faster;

39. Notes that, while public finances have improved over the recent years, following the assessment of the 2017 DBPs, eight Member States are considered to be at risk of non-compliance; considers that the agreed fiscal adjustment paths need to be adhered to;

40. Welcomes the reduction in average public deficits and debts, but agrees that aggregate pictures hide significant disparities across the Member States; stresses that aggregate pictures should always be looked at in conjunction with the examination of individual budgets, and underlines the need for sound fiscal policies in anticipation of rising interest rates; considers that upward convergence, in particular between euro area Member States, needs to be achieved;

Fiscal stance for the euro area

41. Notes that according to the Commission's 2016 autumn economic forecast, the fiscal stance in the euro area moved from restrictive towards neutral in 2015 and is expected to be mildly expansionary over the forecast horizon; notes, furthermore, the Commission's consideration that a full delivery of the fiscal requirements contained in the country-specific recommendations of the Council would lead, on aggregate, to a modestly restrictive fiscal stance for the euro area as a whole in 2017 and 2018, and the Commission's calls for a positive expansionary fiscal stance though recognising the economic and legal constraints for this;

42. Considers the Commission's communication on a positive fiscal stance an important development; welcomes the communication's intention to contribute to the better coordinating economic policies in the euro area and to highlight the opportunities for fiscal stimulus in Member States having room for this; stresses that fiscal requirements are based on commonly agreed fiscal rules; recalls that the Member States are obliged to comply with the SGP, regardless of aggregate recommendations; notes that there are divergent views regarding the potential, and level, of an aggregate fiscal stance target; welcomes the ongoing work of the independent European Fiscal Board on this matter;

43. Takes the view that improving the structure of public budgets is one of the key levers to ensure compliance with EU fiscal rules, and to allow for the financing of indispensable expenditure, for the building of buffers for unforeseen needs and growth-enhancing investments and, lastly, for the financing of less essential spending, as well as to contribute to a more efficient and responsible use of public funds; recalls that the composition of national budgets is decided at national level taking into account country-specific recommendations;

44. Notes that the debate on a smart allocation of public spending and policy priorities is regularly taking place on the EU budget, and that such a critical assessment is also indispensable for national budgets to improve the quality of public budgets in the medium-term and long-term and avoid linear budget cuts;

45. Welcomes the ongoing review of public spending, and encourages the Member States to assess critically the quality and composition of their budgets; supports efforts towards improving the quality and efficiency of public expenditure; including by shifting unproductive expenses towards growth-enhancing investments;

46. Believes the EU budget could help relieve the strain on national budgets by collecting own resources instead of relying extensively on national contributions;

47. Welcomes the thematic discussions undertaken and best practice standards adopted by the Eurogroup, such as on expenditure reviews, during the 2016 Semester Cycle; Invites

the Commission and the Eurogroup to make them more effective and transparent;

48. Invites the Commission and the Council to formulate the country-specific recommendations in a way that makes progress measurable, in particular for cases where the policy recommendation repeatedly targets the same policy area and/or where the nature of the reform requires implementation beyond one Semester cycle;

Coordination of national policies and democratic accountability

49. Highlights the importance of national parliaments debating country reports, country-specific recommendations, national reform programmes and stability programmes, and to act on them more than hitherto;

50. Believes that better implementation of country-specific recommendations requires clearly articulated priorities at European level and genuine public debate at national, regional and local levels, leading to greater ownership; calls on the Member States to involve local and regional authorities in a structured manner, in view of the impact and challenges felt within Member States also at sub-national level, in order to improve the implementation of country-specific recommendations;

51. Urges the Commission to launch negotiations on an interinstitutional agreement on economic governance; insists that this IIA should ensure that, within the framework of the Treaties, the structure of the European Semester allows for meaningful and regular parliamentary scrutiny of the process, in particular as regards the Annual Growth Survey priorities and the euro area recommendations;

Sectorial contributions to the 2017 AGS Report

Budgets

52. Considers that the EU budget could provide added value for investment and structural reforms in Member States if greater synergy between existing instruments and linkage with Member States' budgets is introduced; believes, therefore, that the Annual Growth Survey (AGS), as an important policy document which provides basic content for national reform programmes, country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and implementation plans, should serve as a guideline for Member States and for the preparation of national budgets, with a view to introducing joint solutions that are visible in national budgets and are linked to the EU budget;

53. Recalls that improving the systems for collecting VAT and customs duties should be of highest priority for all Member States; welcomes the Commission's proposal for establishing an EU blacklist of tax havens, which should be enforced by criminal sanctions in order to deal with multinationals that evade taxes;

Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

54. Stresses that an improved and more efficient use of resources, reducing foreign energy dependence and introducing sustainable production, based on better design

requirements for products and more sustainable consumption patterns, involves promoting entrepreneurship and job creation, implementing international targets and the Union's environmental objectives effectively and diversifying revenue sources, in a context of fiscal responsibility and economic competitiveness; considers that the European Semester should also incorporate reporting on energy efficiency and interconnectivity on the basis of targets set at EU level.

55. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission, and to the governments of the Member States, the national parliaments and the European Central Bank.

MINORITY OPINION

Pursuant to Rule 52a (4) of the Rules of Procedure
Miguel Viegas, Fabio De Masi, Paloma López Bermejo, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Marisa Matias, Rina Ronja Kari, Matt Carthy

The report stands for structural reforms, a minor role of the State and defends the Stability Pact and the Fiscal Treaty. Considers that the deepening of neoliberal reforms and financialisation, including through the Capital Markets Union, is the solution for the economic stagnation of the EU – rather than a boost in public spending and an increase of wages and social protection, destroyed by austerity measures. Moreover, it expresses concern about the decision not to sanction Portugal and Spain.

It denies the reality: the euro and the economic governance framework were ineffective in tackling the financial, economic and social crisis that have plagued the EU for almost a decade, but they were also responsible for it and for its exacerbation. The euro and the economic governance framework have been working as tools to impose a neoliberal agenda: privatization and deregulation, structural reforms, losses of social and labour rights, cuts in labour income and in public welfare.

The euro and the economic governance framework have been leading to greater divergence among Member States and greater income inequalities, thus less territorial, social and economic cohesion.

Therefore, we urge the repeal of the:

- Fiscal Compact;
- Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance;
- European Semester.

25.1.2017

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGETS (*)

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2017 (2016/2306(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Jean-Paul Denanot

(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Budgets calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Considers that the EU budget could provide added value for investment and structural reforms in Member States if greater synergy between existing instruments and linkage with Member States' budgets is introduced; believes, therefore, that the Annual Growth Survey (AGS), as an important policy document which provides basic content for national reform programmes, country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and implementation plans, should serve as a guideline for Member States and for the preparation of national budgets, with a view to introducing joint solutions that are visible in national budgets and are linked to the EU budget;

2. Agrees that stability mechanisms are essential, and recalls that implementation of and compliance with the criteria established by the Stability and Growth Pact should be a priority for Member States; welcomes making full use of the existing flexibility clauses in order to support greater investment and structural reforms and deal with security threats and refugee inflows;

3. Recalls that improving the systems for collecting VAT and customs duties should be of highest priority for all Member States; welcomes the Commission's proposal for establishing an EU blacklist of tax havens, which should be enforced by criminal sanctions in order to deal with multinationals that evade taxes; welcomes the Commission's proposals for establishing a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, which should enhance cross-border activities and reduce tax evasion and aggressive tax planning; recalls the need for the introduction of a reform of the own resources system

that can lead to a true reform of EU financing without increasing the tax burden on citizens;

4. Considers that growth is still insufficient to create jobs that the EU urgently needs, especially for its young people, and that it is necessary to encourage public and private investment in infrastructure and education and training, as well as SMEs, and to promote actions to tackle unemployment, such as the Youth Guarantee; welcomes the further boost of the Youth Employment Initiative, involving an additional EUR 500 million under the YEI specific allocation, matched by EUR 1 billion from the European Social Fund for the period 2017-2020, which will allow several YEI-eligible Member States the possibility of investing more of their ESF funding in youth employment measures;

5. Welcomes the Commission’s proposal to extend and expand the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in terms of duration and financial capacity; highlights that reinforcement of EFSI is important in order to return investment back to its long-term sustainable trend, to continue delivering concrete results, and to provide project promoters with the certainty that they will still be able to prepare projects after the initial investment period; expects further improvements in the areas of additionality, geographical and sectorial coverage, and transparency; underlines the potential of synergies between EFSI and the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs), in particular with regard to their contribution to territorial cohesion; calls on the European and national institutions to better involve regional and local authorities in order to address low project generation capacity and borrowing capacity in some Member States;

6. Reiterates that investing and stimulating investment in innovation and ICT should be a core economic policy at EU level in order to generate sustainable growth;

7. Considers that the banking system’s responsibility has to be increased in order to ensure both long-term investment and stability on the financial markets;

8. Stresses the importance of a fair and cohesive EU investment policy that is capable of generating growth across the EU but also of facilitating the reduction of the existing gaps between Member States;

9. Is convinced that SMEs and start-ups are essential for the future development of the EU’ economy, and reiterates the need for stronger investment and fiscal policies designed to stimulate them further;

10. Is convinced that monetary policy, if strongly supported by a proper budgetary policy, can boost economic development, sustainable growth and job creation;

11. Considers that the existence of differing demographic developments in each Member State should alert the Member States to the need to put public deficits into perspective;

12. Recalls that the use of the ESIFs is subject to macroeconomic conditions; bearing in mind the correlation between good economic governance and absorption capacity, calls on the Commission to encourage use of the ESIFs for the implementation of the CSRs by prolonging the fiscal adjustment period within which the ESIFs are used as a flanking measure for implementing structural reforms and achieving increased investment;

13. Stresses that, compared to other large markets such as the US, the EU has strict fiscal rules, uneven legislation across Member States and a large number of different limitations which represent obstacles to progress, innovative solutions and growth; calls on the Commission, therefore, to carry out a more detailed discussion with Member States on common activities and rules that need to be established at EU level in order to support the exchange of knowledge, experiences, technologies, innovation, development and fast start-up growth prior to the presentation of the Annual Growth Survey.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	25.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 27 –: 2 0: 3
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Manuel dos Santos, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Esteban González Pons, Ingeborg Gräßle, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Victor Negrescu, Jan Olbrycht, Urmas Paet, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Inese Vaidere, Daniele Viotti, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes present for the final vote	Jean-Paul Denanot, Ivana Maletić, Marco Valli
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Paul Brannen, Ulrike Lunacek

25.1.2017

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2017 (2016/2306(INI))

Rapporteur: Nuno Melo

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Stresses that the European Semester debate is of particular importance in view of the need to find a new development model for structural reforms and selective investments in strategic areas, moving towards an economic model combining industrial development with environmental sustainability; reiterates, therefore, that the environmental dimension should play a full role, together with the economic and social dimensions, in the European Semester process;

2. Regrets that the recovery in the EU remains slow and fragile, which highlights the need to step up structural reforms, encourage investment and build a more competitive economy;

3. Welcomes the fact that the Annual Growth Survey 2017 clearly mentions the circular economy among the general economic priorities for the EU;

4. Points out that climate change is undoubtedly a very serious global challenge and that swift action should remain a priority for the EU; underlines, in this connection, the importance of the Paris Agreement adopted in December 2015 at the COP 21, a global milestone in furthering the global collective transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society; notes that the agreement sets out a qualitative long-term emissions-reduction goal in line with the objective of keeping the global temperature increase well below 2 ºC and pursuing efforts to keep it to 1.5 ºC; calls for the Commission therefore to take into consideration in its country-specific recommendations the need for Member States to invest in low-carbon-emission energy projects to match the objectives of the Paris Agreement; points out that an effective transition to a low-carbon society requires large investments in strategic areas such as energy, waste management, transport and buildings;

calls, in this context, for sustainable investments to be earmarked under the forthcoming 'EFSI 2' regulation;

5. Calls on the Commission to use the European Semester as an instrument for fulfilling EU commitments emanating from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular to include in the process policies and effective measures addressing climate change, sustainable production and consumption, food security and biodiversity;

6. Recalls that ensuring sustainable growth, climate protection and job creation in the EU means using our resources in a smarter and more sustainable way, shifting taxation from labour to environmental pollution, phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels, and reducing dependence on imports of raw materials; considers that the focus should be on the application of the waste hierarchy primarily to support the implementation of prevention measures, greater recycling and re-use of products; notes that it is estimated that the circular economy could provide EU companies with savings of about EUR 600 billion per year; reiterates, therefore, in order to accelerate the EU transition towards a circular economy, its call for the principles of the circular economy to be incorporated into the European Semester and for a lead indicator on resource efficiency, and security of supply for key raw materials; underlines the need for stronger investment in proven green technologies in order to achieve the Europe 2020 targets for sustainable growth and the 2030 targets for climate and energy;

7. Stresses the importance of the ongoing waste legislation reform in order to advance the transition of the European economy to a circular model;

8. Stresses that an improved and more efficient use of resources, reducing foreign energy dependence and introducing sustainable production, based on better design requirements for products and more sustainable consumption patterns, involves promoting entrepreneurship and job creation, implementing international targets and the Union's environmental objectives effectively and diversifying revenue sources, in a context of fiscal responsibility and economic competitiveness; considers that the European Semester should also incorporate reporting on energy efficiency and interconnectivity on the basis of targets set at EU level;

9. Points out that, according to a 2012 Commission study, if all EU waste legislation were fully implemented, Europe would save EUR 72 billion a year, the turnover of the waste management and recycling sector would rise by EUR 42 billion, and 400 000 jobs would be created by 2020; recalls that reducing the amount of waste and ensuring compliance with the legislation on this matter should be considered to be of the highest priority;

10. Highlights that Member States need to reform their tax systems in order to support growth and fair rules between businesses; emphasises, in this respect, the role of environmental taxation, environmental tax reform and tax-shifting programmes as key enabling factors in the transition to a green economy, as they can trigger eco-innovations that generate wealth and jobs and contribute to environmental improvement and reduced energy and resource consumption;

11. Calls on the Commission to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals into the European Semester process;

12. Points out the need for a more comprehensive set of indicators in order to assess the measures put in place by Member States in terms of their contribution towards the achievement of the objectives taken up by the European Union in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular the target of halving food waste by 2030; stresses that Sustainable Development Goal targets need to be properly mainstreamed in the Union's internal as well as external policies;

13. Recalls that a trend of growth in jobs in the eco-industry can be observed throughout the EU; highlights that further reductions in energy and resource use could lead to additional job creation, particularly in the sectors of insulation, heat-pump technologies, electrically propelled vehicles and water-efficient agricultural irrigation technologies, but also in the recycling and resource-dependent sectors;

14. Welcomes the Commission's decision to establish a High-Level Expert Group (HLEG) on sustainable finance; underlines that reforms for sustainable finance are necessary to support investment in clean technologies and their deployment, to ensure that the financial system can finance growth in a sustainable manner over the long term and to contribute to the creation of a low-carbon, climate-resilient circular economy, as set out in the Commission communication of 14 September 2016 entitled 'Capital Markets Union – Accelerating Reform';

15. Notes that several of the projects approved for financing by the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) are oriented towards infrastructure and innovation in the environment and health sectors; underlines, however, the need to increase the availability of green funds through the EFSI;

16. Stresses that effective investment in health and education, including health promotion and disease prevention, is essential for providing citizens with equal access to healthcare services, as well as for stability, sustainability, economic prosperity and growth promotion, producing results in terms of productivity, labour supply, human capital and public spending; recalls that expenditure on health services constitutes investment towards healthier, safer, more productive and competitive societies; underlines the importance of the sustainability of the healthcare sector, which plays an important role in the overall economy, as it accounts for 8 % of the total European workforce and 10 % of GDP in the EU;

17. Stresses the need to create a sustainable knowledge-sharing system in the field of health technology assessment and that the aim of health technology assessment is to address issues related to the properties of health technologies, including their safety, effectiveness, efficiency, applicability, indications, costs, cost-effectiveness and social, ethical and economic consequences of their use;

18. Recommends once again that the principles of the circular economy be integrated into country-specific recommendations;

19. Underlines the importance of structured systematic dialogue at national level with a view to increasing ownership of the country-specific recommendations by all stakeholders in the health system; points out the need therefore for a more comprehensive assessment of health-system performance at EU level; encourages the Member States to use the evidence gathered in their policy-making and share best practices with a view to reducing

divergences and health inequalities between and within Member States;

20. Points out the need for a more comprehensive assessment of health systems in the framework of the European Semester, not only considering the fiscal dimension but also addressing access, effectiveness and quality within the European health sector;

21. Stresses that appropriate consideration should be given to healthcare-related costs incurred by Member States as a result of emergencies putting additional strain on healthcare systems, such as immigrants and refugees arriving in the EU in conditions requiring immediate medical attention, that necessary medical assistance is essential for both the protection of human rights and risk reduction aimed at protecting EU citizens from possible exposure to diseases endemic in migration countries of origin, and that the related cost burden should therefore be properly considered when evaluating Member States' budgets.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 52 –: 5 0: 8
Members present for the final vote	Marco Affronte, Margrete Auken, Pilar Ayuso, Zoltán Balczó, Catherine Bearder, Ivo Belet, Simona Bonafè, Biljana Borzan, Paul Brannen, Nessa Childers, Birgit Collin-Langen, Mireille D’Ornano, Miriam Dalli, Seb Dance, Angélique Delahaye, Mark Demesmaeker, Stefan Eck, José Inácio Faria, Francesc Gambús, Elisabetta Gardini, Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy, Jens Gieseke, Julie Girling, Sylvie Goddyn, Françoise Grossetête, Andrzej Grzyb, Jytte Guteland, Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Jean-François Jalkh, Benedek Jávor, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Karin Kadenbach, Kateřina Konečná, Urszula Krupa, Giovanni La Via, Peter Liese, Norbert Lins, Valentinas Mazuronis, Susanne Melior, Massimo Paolucci, Piernicola Pedicini, Julia Reid, Frédérique Ries, Michèle Rivasi, Daciana Octavia Sârbu, Annie Schreijer-Pierik, Davor Škrlec, Claudiu Ciprian Tănăsescu, Ivica Tolić, Estefanía Torres Martínez, Nils Torvalds, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Jadwiga Wiśniewska, Damiano Zoffoli
Substitutes present for the final vote	Renata Briano, Herbert Dorfmann, James Nicholson, Stanislav Polčák, Gabriele Preuß, Tiemo Wölken
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Xabier Benito Ziluaga, Richard Corbett, Sander Loones, Kosma Złotowski

25.1.2017

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for Economic Policy Coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2017 (2016/2306(INI))

Rapporteur: Krzysztof Hetman

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 as an important part of the European recovery process based on a strategy of investment, structural reforms, job creation and responsible public finances, aiming to further promote higher growth levels, strengthen European recovery and reach an upward convergence;

2. Is concerned that there is still evidence of macroeconomic imbalances and limited convergences, notably within the euro area;

3. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery, as well as the substantial investment gap in the EU, which jeopardises the EU's longer-term growth potential; calls on the Member States to make strong commitments to implement structural reforms and to reduce their debt-to-GDP ratio and their budget deficit in order to foster growth and create jobs; believes that Member States should remain primarily responsible for CSR implementation and for deciding on the best way this should be done; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting these structural reforms, job creation and investments; asks the Commission to consider involving local and regional authorities in the European Semester, where relevant;

4. Calls for European Semester policies which aim at boosting domestic demand in order to make the European economy more resilient within a framework of worsening global outlook and slowdown in global demand;

5. Recognises the objective of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is

designed to support high-risk investment projects with the aim of strengthening growth potential based on quality jobs and productivity; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91 % of funding) and the EU13 (9 % of funding); notes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies and complementarities between the EFSI and the ESI Funds, as well as to provide more targeted local and regional technical assistance, in order to mitigate divergence in the Single Market by enabling all regions to develop their potential and to improve the geographical coverage of the EFSI across the EU; calls on the EIB and the Commission to ensure that the distribution of the funds is based on prudent financial analysis, with applications assessed fairly on their merit; emphasises, however, that there is still a lack of evidence regarding the impact of the EFSI's contribution to growth and jobs; from this perspective, underlines that the EFSI must be additional to the ESI Funds and should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the Union, which brings the EU closer to its citizens; calls on the Commission to propose further measures aiming at reducing and better balancing the above-mentioned discrepancy;

6. Shares the view of the Commission that the Advisory Hub must be enhanced to enable it to work on a more local and regional scale and to improve its cooperation with National Promotional Banks, and in order for it to be a useful tool to help project promoters develop better projects, in particular for regions or sectors where additional outreach and technical capacity are needed; asks the Commission to promote better use of the EFSI by the local and regional authorities across the EU, in particular through investment platforms; to this end, invites the Commission to help by disseminating information and to address the current lack of administrative and institutional capacity at subnational level; calls on the Commission and the Member States to use the EFSI and the ESI Funds to their full potential and in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy in order to reduce the investment gap in the EU;

7. Underlines that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, such as the activities of the Taskforce for Better Implementation, Member States need to step up their actions to implement the necessary structural reforms and all other measures which support this implementation, including institutional capacity building, with the aim of boosting growth and jobs and by removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy; underlines, nevertheless, the need for coordination between the EU's priorities and national, regional and local needs; stresses the importance of ex-ante conditionalities in order to improve capacity building in the Member States; stresses the need to intensify communication to European citizens of the results obtained in order to make European added value more visible;

8. Reiterates the need to accelerate the implementation of the ESI Funds during the 2014-2020 financial programming period; while acknowledging that Member States should remain responsible for the designation of programmes, believes that tailor-made recommendations should follow the analysis of the implementation deficiencies and be included in the CSR formulation process; calls on the Commission to engage in close dialogue with the Member States to define such measures;

9. Underlines that in order to better respond to economic challenges and boost growth, the Member States must be given a higher level of flexibility in implementation when making

use of the investment clauses; shares, in this context, the view of the European Court of Auditors that public procurement, while being a perennial problem, needs to be addressed also at Commission level, with the Commission acting as an advocate for improvements in this field;

10. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal is being held in abeyance in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament, which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous and based on an assessment from the Commission which claims both nations are making progress towards their deficit reduction targets; shares the Commission's view that the euro area needs to adopt a more collective approach, which takes into account the budgetary situation differences between Member States; recalls in this respect the role of the Commission as guardian of the Treaties; is expecting, furthermore, a report from the Commission on the application of Article 23 of Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013, due in 2017, which takes into consideration the opinion of Parliament expressed during the structured dialogue of 2016;

11. Welcomes the Commission's declaration on the importance of investment in knowledge, innovation, education and ICT as drivers of growth; advocates the adoption of policies that will enable basic access to connectivity for every European citizen;

12. Believes that the Investment Plan for Europe will only deliver on its targets through improved engagement with SMEs, local authorities and other grass-roots actors; calls on the EIB and the Commission to ensure that these stakeholders are able to successfully design and lead applications for project financing, have appropriate support and are not exposed to unnecessary regulatory burdens; in particular, notes the positive impact that community-led local development can have on ensuring that the voices of local actors are heard;

13. Welcomes support for SMEs through EFSI's SME Window and the SME Initiative; is encouraged by the ongoing recovery of the SME sector since the 2008 financial crisis; calls on the Commission to cooperate with Member States to ensure that problem areas are addressed, including the slow increases in the numbers employed by SMEs and the stagnant growth in the manufacturing, construction and retail sectors;

14. Believes that access to finance remains the primary challenge for growing SMEs; notes that the commercial banking sector, primarily regulated by Member States, remains the primary source of financing for most SMEs; notes, therefore, that it will be Member States who remain the primary actors in the recovery of the SME sector and that the Commission should ensure that its actions play an effective supporting role.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

Date adopted	24.1.2017
Result of final vote	+: 31 –: 6 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Pascal Arimont, Franc Bogovič, Victor Boştinaru, Andrea Cozzolino, Rosa D'Amato, Tamás Deutsch, Iratxe García Pérez, Michela Giuffrida, Ivan Jakovčić, Constanze Krehl, Sławomir Kłosowski, Andrew Lewer, Louis-Joseph Manscour, Martina Michels, Jens Nilsson, Andrey Novakov, Younous Omarjee, Konstantinos Papadakis, Mirosław Piotrowski, Stanislav Polčák, Liliana Rodrigues, Fernando Ruas, Monika Smolková, Maria Spyraki, Ruža Tomašić, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, Monika Vana, Matthijs van Miltenburg, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Derek Vaughan
Substitutes present for the final vote	Petras Auštrevičius, Ivana Maletić, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Maurice Ponga, Laurenţiu Rebega, Bronis Ropė, Iuliu Winkler

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Date adopted	13.2.2017
Result of final vote	+: 34 –: 13 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Gerolf Annemans, Burkhard Balz, Hugues Bayet, Pervenche Berès, Udo Bullmann, Jonás Fernández, Neena Gill CBE, Roberto Gualtieri, Brian Hayes, Gunnar Hökmark, Danuta Maria Hübner, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Georgios Kyrtsos, Alain Lamassoure, Philippe Lamberts, Olle Ludvigsson, Ivana Maletić, Marisa Matias, Gabriel Mato, Bernard Monot, Luigi Morgano, Stanisław Ożóg, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, Molly Scott Cato, Pedro Silva Pereira, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Kay Swinburne, Paul Tang, Michael Theurer, Marco Valli, Tom Vandenkendelaere, Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, Miguel Viegas, Jakob von Weizsäcker, Sotirios Zarianopoulos
Substitutes present for the final vote	Bas Eickhout, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Thomas Mann, Siegfried Mureşan, Maria João Rodrigues, Renato Soru, Romana Tomc, Lieve Wierinck, Roberts Zīle
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Klaus Buchner, Ingeborg Gräßle, Monica Macovei, Petri Sarvamaa

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

34	+
ALDE	Michael Theurer, Lieve Wierinck, Cora van Nieuwenhuizen
ECR	Monica Macovei
NI	Renato Soru
PPE	Burkhard Balz, Ingeborg Gräßle, Brian Hayes, Gunnar Hökmark, Danuta Maria Hübner, Georgios Kyrtsos, Alain Lamassoure, Ivana Maletić, Thomas Mann, Gabriel Mato, Siegfried Mureşan, Petri Sarvamaa, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Romana Tomc, Tom Vandenkendelaere
S&D	Hugues Bayet, Pervenche Berès, Udo Bullmann, Jonás Fernández, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Neena Gill CBE, Roberto Gualtieri, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Olle Ludvigsson, Luigi Morgano, Maria João Rodrigues, Pedro Silva Pereira, Paul Tang, Jakob von Weizsäcker

13	-
ECR	Stanisław Ożóg, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, Kay Swinburne
EFDD	Marco Valli
ENF	Gerolf Annemans, Bernard Monot
GUE/NGL	Marisa Matias, Miguel Viegas
NI	Sotirios Zarianopoulos
Verts/ALE	Klaus Buchner, Bas Eickhout, Philippe Lamberts, Molly Scott Cato

1	0
ECR	Roberts Zīle

Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention