The European Parliament,

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

A. whereas during the last 10 years non-standard forms of employment have become prominent in the labour market, while standard forms of contract have shifted from 62% to 59%;

B. whereas 19.121 million men and women in the EU-28, of whom 15.04 million were in the euro area, were unemployed in April 2017;

C. whereas 3.746 million young people (under 25) were unemployed in the EU-28 in April 2017, of whom 2.617 million were in the euro area;

D. whereas in the EU-28, 122 million people are currently living in poverty, i.e. 24.4% of the population, compared with 23.8% in 2008; whereas 9.5% of European citizens, almost one citizen out of every 10, cannot afford a protein-rich meal at least every two days;

E. whereas, over the past 15 years, precarious employment contracts, such as zero-hour contracts, unpaid work and involuntary part-time jobs have become widespread;

F. whereas these new forms of precarious employment increase the risk of poverty and inequalities, above all among young people, and have long-term consequences on pension rights and social security;

G. whereas support and demand for public investments are vital in order to boost the real economy and ensure high-quality public and social services for citizens, especially in the areas of education, pensions and health;

H. whereas, in many Member States, the European Union’s structural, economic and commercial policies, and the promotion of the neoliberal principle of flexibility, have resulted in the collapse of domestic demand, an increase in unemployment levels and the explosion of social and economic divergences, undermining the rights and
protection of workers;

I. whereas since 2008 EU austerity measures have been among the main causes of inequality, imposing regressive taxes borne by labour rather than by profit, welfare cuts, wage cuts and worsening labour conditions, which put the weight of the crisis on the shoulders of the weakest sections of our society;

J. whereas Greece is a perfect example of how EU economic policies make matters far worse instead of making them better, given that the GDP fell from $ 354.461 billion in 2008 to $ 194.851 billion in 2015, with European aid starting in 2010;

K. whereas the single currency, by preventing normal adjustments in competitiveness between countries and depriving Member States of the main economic policy tools that would enable them to absorb asymmetric shock, is the main factor responsible for the rise in inequalities and precariousness in the EU and for the increase in macroeconomic imbalances and divergences between core and periphery countries;

L. whereas a new form of precariousness has arisen in the form of the ‘working poor’ who, despite having a job, cannot live decently;

1. Underlines that the Commission and its propaganda strategies such as Europe 2020 have completely failed in addressing the unemployment crisis;

2. Underlines that, on top of the unemployment and financial crisis affecting European citizens, the EU is continuing, against all logic, to defend the open-door policy, fuelling initiatives whose sole purpose is to import millions of workers who are then exploited in the European labour market;

3. Considers that the Commission and its (structural) policies are the main cause of the decrease in the net disposable income of the average citizen in the EU, thereby spreading poverty and destroying the national pension systems;

4. Calls for full respect to be shown for national economic sovereignty and for the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance (TSCG), which is the principal obstacle to public investment, to be suspended; stresses the importance of Member States implementing deficit-financed public investments, targeted specifically for their own national needs and promoting specific sectors of the economy with a view to achieving the creation of decent work; recalls that only Member States, through their own domestic policies, can stimulate demand and thereby help young people to find high-quality jobs;

5. Condemns the asymmetrical and distortionary impact that the single currency is having across the Eurozone and urges the immediate introduction of an opt-out procedure for any Member State that wishes to leave the Economic and Monetary Union;

6. Points out that the Commission’s own country-specific recommendations, when calling for austerity, are the cause of a rise in inequalities and poverty;

7. Recognises that a certain level of adaptability can be a positive thing, so long as it is
desired by both employer and worker and is correctly bargained by both parties;

8. Demands that the Commission put a stop to its unbalanced EU-wide policies and allow Member States to implement measures at national level in order to provide their citizens with solutions tailored to their specific problems and concerns;

9. Recalls that young people are the key to our future and that they are currently the victims of EU policies; recalls, therefore, the importance of Member States being allowed to implement the necessary policies to create jobs for young people;

10. Recalls that only Member States can decide on the measures needed to avoid the phenomenon of the ‘working poor’, and that they must be allowed to decide which policies to implement in order to fight this trend nationally;

11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.