Amendment 1
Steeve Briois
on behalf of the ENF Group

Report
Marc Joulaud
Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU
2017/2279(INI)

Motion for a resolution (Rule 170(3) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A8-0138/2018

European Parliament resolution on strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU

The European Parliament,

– having regard to the Commission’s 7th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion, entitled ‘My region, my Europe, our future: The 7th report on economic, social and territorial cohesion’ (COM(2017)0583, 9 October 2017),

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

A. whereas Union funding, because it is linked to size-based parameters and not macroeconomic fundamentals and because it is designed to address structural rather than short-term problems, cannot offer effective protection against economic shocks, such as those triggered by the financial crisis of 2007-2008;

B. whereas Union funding, although intended as an instrument to offset imbalances between Member States, in practice magnifies those imbalances, in that the provision of funding is based on the twin principles of co-financing and conditionality; whereas, accordingly, Union funding is a particularly underhand means by which the EU exercises control over Member States’ spending policies;

1. Reiterates that under no circumstances can the relocation of immigrants be considered an acceptable solution to the demographic problems experienced in Europe;

2. Notes that the austerity measures, the imposition of the single currency and the economic constraints imposed by the Treaties have had a destabilising effect on the economies of Member States and the euro area, causing collapse in domestic demand, rising levels of unemployment and explosion of social inequalities;

3. Notes that the long economic and financial crisis in Europe has highlighted the limitations of the European Union’s governance framework and the inefficiency of the European Semester, which, through country-specific recommendations, favours an asymmetrical and arbitrary approach to the rules on economic governance;
4. Strongly opposes the macroeconomic conditionality mechanism, which makes cohesion funding dependent on compliance with the EU economic governance rules;

5. Stresses that the ESI Funds should not be used to finance the reception of immigrants;

6. Recalls that the administrative complexity of the eligibility rules for EU funds contributes to reducing their absorption rate and that it is important to simplify these rules in the interests of local authorities, SMEs and all other project promoters;

7. Considers that education, urban policy, spatial planning policy and family policy fall within the exclusive competence of the Member States and that no EU legislative provision can violate the principle of subsidiarity;

8. Stresses that the amounts allocated to financing the European Union’s communication should be fully reprogrammed in order to maximise the effective contribution of EU funds;

9. Points out that the multiplication of macro-regional strategies might naturally reinforce territorial administrative complexity and worsen budgetary mismanagement to the detriment of the beneficiaries of EU funds;

10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

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