



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Foreign Affairs

2014/2214(INI)

16.7.2015

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Regional Development

on an EU strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian region
(2014/2214(INI))

Rapporteur: Dubravka Šuica

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Stresses the strategic importance of promoting the European integration and enlargement process, regional cooperation and good neighbourly relations with the tools and means of the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR); expects new impetus to be given to strengthening peace, social cohesion, economic development, environmental sustainability and security in South East Europe;
2. Takes the view that democratic, transparent, stable and good governance mechanisms are crucial in order to provide strategic direction, take key decisions and oversee effective implementation of the EUSAIR; supports the strengthening of the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and private businesses, in the implementation process; considers it important to ensure adequate visibility of the EUSAIR at all levels; calls for close cooperation with relevant European organisations and programmes, including on the social and migration challenges affecting the region, with particular regard to the South East Europe 2020 Strategy; calls for the duplication or overlapping of activities to be avoided; calls for joint projects and synergies to be developed, in particular, with the Central European Initiative (CEI), the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECP) and the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM);
3. Considers it essential that the EUSAIR contribute to the EU accession process of the Western Balkan countries by providing them with opportunities for close cooperation with EU Member States and by addressing common regional challenges; encourages the inclusion of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo in the EUSAIR; encourages the development of synergies and coordinated policies among the EU, the relevant Member States and the Western Balkan countries; welcomes the regular Western Balkans Six Prime Ministers meetings and encourages their coordinated action on regional issues; considers it important that the South-East European countries tackle issues of corruption, the rule of law and respect for human rights;
4. Calls for the Western Balkan countries to be fully and effectively involved in all steps of EUSAIR's implementation and for them to improve their connectivity among themselves and with the rest of the EU, including by simplifying existing administrative burdens, with the aim of accelerating sustainable economic growth and people-to-people contacts, including the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor; stresses the strategic importance of the Adriatic-Ionian Corridor and calls for these countries' significant disparities and deficits in infrastructure to be tackled, in particular as regards road and rail networks, intermodal connections, traffic management systems and energy infrastructure; calls for the completion of the remaining stretches of the Trans-European transport corridors in South-East Europe, including Corridors V, VI, VIII and X, which will improve the overall connectivity of the region with the EU Member States; encourages speeding up the continuation of the Pelješac bridge construction and of the Adriatic-Ionian Highway in order to facilitate connectivity;
5. Calls for further support for common energy projects such as the Ionian-Adriatic pipeline

(IAP) in order to increase security of supply; calls for shared and sustainable governance of fundamental and common resources, such as the Adriatic and Ionian seas and fisheries resources; calls for the implementation of smart regional development strategies and projects focused on green economy and social inclusion;

6. Calls on the Commission, including its DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations, to seek, through coherence and complementarity, the most efficient use of all available financing instruments in order to optimise impact, to achieve better results and to encourage sustainable economic growth; is of the opinion that the financing instruments should also be employed in such a way as to stimulate additional private investment; calls for new fund coordination mechanisms to be put in place to sustain EUSAIR flagships projects;
7. Regrets the fact that the EUSAIR inadequately addresses issues of growing concern such as trafficking in human beings and cross-border crime; while noting that criminal traffic passes through this part of Europe, calls for cross-border crime and any kind of trafficking to be included as components in the EUSAIR;
8. Stresses that irregular migration should also be included as a component in the EUSAIR; calls for more attention to be given to social cohesion and local development, as basic dimensions for integration of migrants, and for strengthening asylum capacities;
9. Strongly believes that the EUSAIR must take into account the strategic importance of the region for the EU's energy security, especially for the diversification of sources and supply routes; emphasises that investment in energy interconnections is a key precondition for the integration of the region into the EU's energy network; bearing in mind the high environmental vulnerability of the Adriatic and Ionian seas, calls for full respect of the relevant EU acquis; calls for renewable energy sources and energy efficiency to be strengthened and for energy infrastructure to be developed, particularly in the more remote and/or less well-connected areas;
10. Stresses the need to deepen the parliamentary dimension of the EUSAIR; encourages participating countries to further develop interparliamentary cooperation, including on the monitoring of the implementation of the EUSAIR and on promoting approximation to the EU acquis; recommends broadening parliamentary involvement beyond the annual Speakers' Conference with the aim of strengthening parliamentary oversight;
11. Calls on the Commission to regularly inform and consult Parliament on the impact achieved through the implementation of the EUSAIR.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	15.7.2015
Result of final vote	+: 52 -: 9 0: 1
Members present for the final vote	Lars Adaktusson, Michèle Alliot-Marie, Nikos Androulakis, Francisco Assis, Petras Auštrevičius, Amjad Bashir, Bas Belder, Goffredo Maria Bettini, Mario Borghezio, Elmar Brok, Klaus Buchner, James Carver, Fabio Massimo Castaldo, Javier Couso Permuy, Arnaud Danjean, Georgios Epitideios, Knut Fleckenstein, Eugen Freund, Michael Gahler, Iveta Grigule, Manolis Kefalogiannis, Afzal Khan, Janusz Korwin-Mikke, Andrey Kovatchev, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Arne Lietz, Barbara Lochbihler, Sabine Lösing, Andrejs Mamikins, Tamás Meszerics, Javier Nart, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Demetris Papadakis, Vincent Peillon, Alojz Peterle, Tonino Picula, Cristian Dan Preda, Jozo Radoš, Sofia Sakorafa, Alyn Smith, Charles Tannock, László Tőkés, Elena Valenciano, Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Hilde Vautmans, Boris Zala
Substitutes present for the final vote	Angel Dzhambazki, Neena Gill, Andrzej Grzyb, Marek Jurek, Gabrielius Landsbergis, Urmas Paet, Dubravka Šuica, István Ujhelyi, Traian Ungureanu, Bodil Valero, Marie-Christine Vergiat, Janusz Zemke
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Fabio De Masi, Axel Voss, Ivan Štefanec