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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 123(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on Youth Employment  
(2014/2713(RSP))

**Anthea McIntyre, Ulrike Trebesius, Arne Gericke, Jana Žitňanská,  
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on behalf of the ECR Group

**European Parliament resolution on Youth Employment  
(2014/2713(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to European Parliament resolution 2013/2176(INI) of 15 April 2014<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to the Country-Specific Recommendations published on 2 June 2014,
- having regard to the UK Government business taskforce report (October 2013),
- having regard to the Commission communication (COM(2013)0685),
- having regard to Rule 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas combating youth unemployment remains a priority for all Member States;
- B. whereas Member States have the primary role in delivering employment policies, including youth employment policies, and that such measures are best delivered at national level;
- C. whereas the causes of youth unemployment vary across the EU, and can include underlying structural problems in labour markets; whereas the situation and problems faced by young people are not uniform, with some groups being disproportionately affected and in need of tailored solutions;
- D. whereas youth unemployment can also be linked to various factors in addition to the labour market and education, but also, for example, to the role of the family;
- E. whereas SMEs and micro-enterprises currently provide 90 million jobs in the private sector in the EU;
- F. whereas 20.7 million SMEs account for over 67 % of private-sector employment in the EU, with 30 % deriving from micro-enterprises;
- G. whereas SMEs and micro-enterprises have a huge potential for job creation, being responsible for 85 % of all newly created jobs;
- 1. Shares the concern that young people in need of help, disabled young people and young people from socially disadvantaged backgrounds should not be excluded from the labour market, education or training systems;
- 2. Believes that young entrepreneurs and growth-orientated SMEs are the necessary enablers of innovation and job creation;

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2014)0394.

3. Strongly believes that EU funding, particularly that under the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), should not be used to subsidise national approaches, but should be used to provide additional support to young people in a way that complements and enhances national programmes according to the decision of the Member States;
4. Notes the broad aim of the Council Recommendation on a European Youth Guarantee in terms of its potential value to focus attention on the need for action, and for brokering exchanges of information for those Member States that need it;
5. Regrets, however, the inclusion of a specific model for an EU-wide guarantee of an offer to all young people within four months of being unemployed or leaving education, as it is unrealistic and impractical;
6. Welcomes schemes such as Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs aimed at helping new entrepreneurs to acquire the relevant skills for managing a business, and believes that such programmes should be further promoted in order to help more young entrepreneurs develop and create jobs;
7. Believes that EU programmes must allow appropriate flexibility to enable Member States to implement individualised support in line with local needs, to ensure funding is used in the areas where youth unemployment is highest and funding is most needed, without compromising on audit and control;
8. Believes that businesses will only create more jobs and recruit more people if the economic environment encourages growth, if they can rely on a qualified workforce, if labour markets are sufficiently flexible, if labour costs, including wages, are in line with productivity, if social protection systems make work more attractive and if regulation is proportionate and evidence-based;
9. Believes that a flexible labour market will help create opportunities for young people to gain experience in order to further develop their careers, and that unfair working practices must be countered;
10. Believes the EU is faced with serious skills shortages and mismatches which are hindering economic growth and job creation;
11. Notes the trend towards more skill-intensive jobs, with almost 90 % of jobs expected to be created or become vacant by 2020 requiring medium or high qualifications;
12. Is concerned that Europe's education and training systems are not adapted to the skills needs of businesses and that, in 2015, the estimated shortage of qualified ICT staff in the EU will rise to between 384 000 and 700 000; that the supply of science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills (STEM) will not match the increasing demands of businesses in the coming years;
13. Highlights the recent trend of companies returning production and services to Europe and the opportunities this brings for job creation, particularly for young people; believes that the economies of the EU have a unique opportunity to accelerate this trend of re-shoring jobs;

14. Believes Member States must be more responsive to labour market needs, notably by ensuring strong links between the world of education and the world of work; ensuring that young people are equipped with the right information, advice and guidance to make sound career choices; and by fostering work-based learning apprenticeships;
15. Believes there is a need to improve leadership, management and entrepreneurial skills among young people to enable new businesses and start-ups to take advantage of new markets, and to realise their growth potential so that young people will become employers and not only employees;
16. Believes that Member States must meet the specific needs of young people with disabilities by providing them with the right tools and support services, in order to create an equal environment and actively increase the employability of young people with disabilities in the labour market, education and training;
17. Recognises the role of the family as an effective support system for young people facing unemployment, poverty and social exclusion;
18. Stresses the importance of focussing on stimulating entrepreneurship, particularly amongst younger people and graduates, promoting graduate internship and placements in small businesses and micro-enterprises to improve young people's experience of business and increase awareness of opportunities and the ability to set up their own businesses;
19. Calls on the Member States, together with the Commission, to consider dedicating support, including the possibility of setting up 'one-stop shops', to help businesses take advantage of the opportunities offered by re-shoring;
20. Notes that bank lending is still the most common source of finance in Europe; believes, however, that there are real benefits in new forms of financing through innovative schemes and non-bank routes, such as peer-to-peer lending, micro-lending and other tools, which can provide vital investment for start-ups to grow and create jobs;
21. Notes that a variety of pathways must be available to young people, and that the definitions of such pathways (internships, traineeships) vary across Europe; strongly believes that applying a single definition across all Member States will create greater confusion;
22. Stresses the importance of recognising and respecting the different social and economic systems in place across Member States;
23. Recognises the potential and added value of exchanging experience and best practice at European level, as facilitated by the European Commission;
24. Recommends that any future evaluation by the European Commission of relevant ESF schemes in the area of youth employment should look beyond the cost and number of participants and consider the impact on the youth job market in real terms over a long period of time, and prioritise understanding of how and why actions are successful;

25. Underlines the need to take account of other factors that affect youth employment in such an evaluation, including economic and labour market conditions;
26. Calls for efforts to be made to ensure that the bureaucratic process does not place any unduly onerous burdens on Member States, which in many cases can shift the focus from a results-orientated approach to an input-orientated approach only;
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.