



**2015/2285(INI)**

15.2.2016

# **OPINION**

of the Committee on Budgets

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth  
Survey 2016  
(2015/2285(INI))

Rapporteur (\*): Jean Arthuis

(\*) 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. Deplores the fact that the European Semester has little in the way of a parliamentary dimension and that the proposals in the Five Presidents' Report are lacking in ambition on that point; considers it disappointing that the first annual growth survey following that report has not been so produced as to be subject to the ordinary legislative procedure, as Parliament is calling for;
2. Considers that the EU has no economic policy other than the sum of national policies; condemns the lack of a common strategic vision and the incapacity to design and implement sector-specific industrial policies; calls for a common economic policy in view of the enormous economic, social and political disparities existing between Member States; deplores the fact that there is no satisfactory lever available, given the modest scale of the EU budget, while it is impossible to modify the own-resources system, and economic forecasts, economic policy priorities, and the annual and multiannual budget-making process do not stand in any form of coherent relationship;
3. Recalls the important role of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) concerning the achievement of the Europe 2020 goals, and stresses that a stronger link should be established between the implementation of the country-specific recommendations and the ESIFs in order to increase the effectiveness of EU spending in the Member States and support structural reform efforts, thereby making Member States less vulnerable to crises;
4. Points out that the EU budget helps directly to achieve two out of the three objectives charted in the Annual Growth Survey 2016 (relaunching investment, pursuing structural reforms, and implementing responsible and honest fiscal policies that are commensurate with stated political commitments); welcomes the Commission's proposal to channel EU funding into technical assistance to support structural reforms;
5. Considers that the EU budget could help relieve the strain on national budgets and bolster fiscal consolidation efforts by providing own resources as well as rationalising expenditure; firmly believes that wider-ranging forms of management of public money at EU level would make it possible to achieve economies of scale and hence cut spending, for example in the diplomatic and military fields while not calling into question the principle of shared management, particularly for the Structural Funds;
6. Stresses that it is illegal for the EU budget to be in deficit; notes that the Member States are making the EU budget an adjustment variable of national budgets;
7. Stresses that greater integration within the euro area is indispensable in order to complete economic and monetary union (EMU), and that budgetary union is a cornerstone of the proper operation of the euro;

8. Urges that the euro area move forward with measures to deepen the budgetary integration of EMU, with a view to counteracting asymmetric shocks by supporting national reform efforts; stresses that any instrument or governance structure established to this end must be fully integrated into the Treaties and be subject to democratic control, and should not in any way overlap with or take over the remit and role of the general budget of the EU as provided for in the Treaties;
9. Calls, as regards Parliament's position on the euro area and its budget capacity, for account to be taken of the conclusions of the own-initiative report on the budgetary capacity of the euro area, which will be prepared in the course of 2016;
10. Calls for budgetary policy and monetary policy to be brought into a policy mix aimed at boosting sustainable growth and decent job creation;
11. Recalls that the Investment Plan for Europe, financed from the EFSI, is intended for the financing of high-risk investments which would not be possible without the risk coverage borne by the EFSI; calls on the Commission to verify that only high-risk projects which fulfil the additionality principle receive funding under the EFSI; underlines in this respect that Parliament will evaluate the projects as well as their leverage effect, in order to ensure that the EFSI guarantee fund in the EU budget is used in an appropriate way;
12. Calls on the Commission to carry out the review of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) provided for in the political agreement concluded between Parliament, the Commission and the Council in June 2013; points out that the financial and humanitarian crises that hit the EU between 2009 and 2014 highlighted the inadequacy of the current MFF; stresses, furthermore, the need for a far-reaching reform of EU financial programming that will take proper account of the objectives, funding and duration of the instruments available.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

<b>Date adopted</b>	15.2.2016
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+ : 17 - : 8 0 : 0
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Vladimír Maňka, Clare Moody, Siegfried Mureşan, Liadh Ní Riada, Younous Omarjee, Paul Rübig, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Monika Vana, Marco Zanni
<b>Substitutes present for the final vote</b>	Stanisław Ożóg, Andrej Plenković, Pavel Poc, Marco Valli, Tomáš Zdechovský