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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2014/2157(INI)

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COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS A - G

Draft opinion

David Casa

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Amendment A

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 1 Le Hyaric, Am 2 Harkin, Am 3 and 4 Martin, Am 5 Lopez, Am 6 Simon, Am 7 Trebesius, Am 8: Delli, Am 9 Gutierrez Prieto, Benifei, Am 10 Benifei, Lopez, Gutierrez Prieto, Am 11 Marin, Am 12 Agea, Beghin, Am 13 Gonzalez Penas

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Welcomes the decline in the EU unemployment rate, from 20.8 % in the first quarter of 2010 to 12.1 % in the third quarter of 2013;*

Amendment

1. *Recognises that the EU unemployment level has reached a high mark in 2013 and that the general economic situation remains very difficult. Notes that according to the Commission Services' spring 2014 forecast there was an increase in unemployment from 11.3% at the end of 2012 to 12.1% in the third quarter of 2013; Notes with great concern the situation in the euro area where unemployment has increased from a severe 11.3% by the end of 2012 to about 11,9% by the end of 2013, and could continue to maintain at a high level of 11.8% in 2014, furthermore, that the differences between Member States' general and youth unemployment rates represent a major risk both for the EU's economic stability and for European social cohesion; stresses that the Commission has recognised in its COM 2014/400 that "the high levels of unemployment and social distress are eroding Europe's human and social capital and call for a decisive action over time". Notes that failure to take action or not creating positive environment to boost investment and growth can lead to widespread recession;*

Or. en

Amendment B

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 18 Lopez, Am 19 Le Hyaric, Am 20 Agea, Beghin, Am 21 Simon, Am 22 Steinruck, Am 23 Guitierrez Prieto, Benifei, Am 24 Gonzales Penas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *Welcomes the slightly positive rate of* job creation in some Member States in the fourth quarter of 2013 and the increase in compensation per employee in almost all non-euro area Member States;

Amendment

2. *Notes that the* job creation *rate* in some Member States *has been slightly positive* in the fourth quarter of 2013 and the increase in compensation per employee in almost all non-euro area Member States; *deeply concerned that in some cases there is a marked decline in job quality, an increase in precarious forms of employment and a deterioration in basic labour standards; Stresses that increase in compensation per employee through an increase in productivity and investment, amongst others, could be an objective for euro area Member States; Is deeply concerned by the continuing negative evolution of the economic activity: the GDP in 2013 in the euro zone keeps decreasing for a second year in a row and unemployment rates are reaching levels so high that are even endangering the stability of some Member States of the Eurozone; profoundly regrets that the EU is far away from achieving the employment and social targets of the EU2020 strategy, with specially the poverty reduction target lagging behind as poverty has increased by 10 million between 2010 and 2012 rather than decreasing;*

Or. en

Amendment C
EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 33 Le Hyaric, Am 34 Gonzales Penas, Am 35 Trebesius, Am 36 Agea, Beghin, Am 37: Martin, Am 38 Harkin, Am 39 Simon, Am 41 Delli, Am 42 Gutierrez Prieto, Benifei, Am 43 Steinruck

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Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. **Agrees with** the ECB's recommendation that growth-friendly fiscal consolidation over the medium term should ensure compliance with the fiscal compact, while at the same time boosting potential growth and generating employment opportunities;

Amendment

3. **Given the Commission Services' spring 2014 forecast that GDP in the euro area fell by 0.4% in 2013 after a decline of 0.7% in 2012, questions** the ECB's recommendations that growth-friendly fiscal consolidation over the medium term should ensure compliance with the fiscal compact, while at the same time boosting potential growth and generating employment opportunities. **Notes that the focus of current policies stays exclusively on economic growth. Reminds of the need for an inclusive, rights-based and sustainable approach; stresses that the spreading of growth benefits throughout society could increase sustainability; takes the view that some of the structural reforms promoted by the ECB– especially labour reforms, wage devaluation, pension reforms, etc. – may result in the same contractionary effects on the economy; calls on the ECB, therefore, to consider assessing the economic and social impact of such policies before recommending them;**

Or. en

Amendment D

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments Am 56 Martin, Am 57 Martin, Am 58 Lopez, Am 59 Agea, Beghin, Am 60 Delli, Am 61 Benifei, Lopez, Gutierrez Prieto, Am 62 Gutierrez Prieto, Benifei

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Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Notes the ECB's call for continuous improvement of the institutional setting of

Amendment

4. Notes the ECB's **reference to the Commission's** call for continuous

the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and reiterates in this context *its* call for ex ante coordination of major economic reform plans;

improvement of the institutional setting of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), and reiterates in this context *the ECB's reference to the Commission's* call for ex ante coordination of major economic reform plans *together with social impact assessments; calls for such coordination to be supported by a comprehensive ex-ante and ex-post social and gender impact assessment; Stresses that this should only be done in a way that ensures democratic accountability and transparency; Believes that consideration could be given to the possibility of developing EMU-wide automatic stabilising mechanisms to address symmetric and asymmetric economic shocks, as a means to maintain social cohesion, support internal demand and strengthen the sustainability of the single currency; stresses the importance of the expedition and completion of the banking union; notes that approval of the three pillars of the banking union and implementation of new rules for credit institutions and insurance companies can help to restore the resilience of the European financial sector; reiterates that the cost of failure of banking institutions should be borne by the banking sector itself;*

Or. en

Amendment E

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 64 Agea, Beghin, Am 65 Harkin, Am 66 Trebesius, Am 67 Le Hyaric, Am 68 Simon, Am 69 Lopez, Am 70 Delli, Am 71 Gutierrez Prieto, Benifei, Am 72 Gonzales Penas

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Paragraph 5

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5. Welcomes the ECB's call on Member States to *carry out the necessary* labour

Amendment

5. Welcomes the ECB's call on Member States to *push ahead with* labour market

market reforms, *in particular through increasing flexibility and optimising the conditions for businesses to create jobs;*

reforms, *in order to improve competitiveness, raise potential growth, generate employment opportunities, increase inclusivity and optimising the conditions for businesses to create jobs; Considers that any such measures should not be to the detriment of the quality of jobs and should not lead to increased insecurity; recalls that restoring EU competitiveness through an excessive adjustment of unit labour costs via salary reductions has sharply eroded the purchasing power of many EU workers, lowered household incomes and depressed internal demand, further fuelling unemployment and social exclusion, particularly in those countries hit hardest by the crisis; underlines that wages are not merely a tool for economic adjustment, but above all the income that workers need to live on; calls on the ECB to ensure that recommendations in the field of wages do not increase in-work poverty or wage inequalities within Member States, or harm low-income groups but should be aimed to address labour market fragmentation;*

Or. en

Amendment F

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 74 Le Hyaric, Am 75 Steinruck, Am 76 Lopez, Am 77 Agea, Beghin, Am 78 Gutierrez Prieto, Benifei, Am 79 Gonzales Penas

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Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. *Welcomes the fact* that the pattern of reduced working hours appears to have reversed by the end of 2013, indicating a possible gradual improvement in the labour market;

Amendment

6. *Notes* the fact that the pattern of reduced working hours appears to have reversed by the end of 2013, indicating a possible gradual improvement in the labour market, *notes also however that such improvement is not yet felt in the labour market;*

Underlines the fact that investment is important, as it works on the supply and demand side of the economy creating jobs, generating incomes for households, increasing tax revenue, helping governments consolidate and boosting growth; reiterates the need to adopt investor-friendly policies, cut red-tape and reduce administrative burden; calls on the European Commission to enhance European investment by € 300 billion as announced in the political guidelines by Jean-Claude Juncker; Warns about the economic damage to aggregated demand and social harm in terms of impoverishment caused by internal devaluation in several countries in the Euro zone and indicates its counterproductive effects in the medium-term;

Or. en

Amendment G

EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, EFDD

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments: Am 83 Lopez, Am 84 Agea, Beghin, Am 85 Le Hyaric

Draft opinion

Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Notes the results of the first wave of the Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey, and stresses the importance of this survey for the monitoring of the euro area's economic and social structure;

Amendment

7. Notes the results of the first wave of the Eurosystem Household Finance and Consumption Survey, and stresses the importance of this survey for the monitoring of the euro area's economic and social structure, *especially for the purpose of further analysing the stagnation and crisis within the internal market; considers that a study could be carried out in order to identify persons living below the poverty line and those that are victims of social exclusion;*

