



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2014/2245(INI)

11.3.2015

AMENDMENTS

1 - 60

Draft opinion
Danuta Jazłowiecka
(PE549.168v01-00)

Investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union
(COM(2014)0473 – 2014/2245(INI))

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PE551.875v01-00

EN

United in diversity

EN

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Recital A

Draft opinion

A. whereas the financial crisis **has undermined the positive effects of** cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

Amendment

A. whereas the financial crisis **may have impacted upon** cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Recital A

Draft opinion

A. whereas the financial crisis has undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and **less convergence than expected**;

Amendment

A. whereas the financial crisis has undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and **increased divergence in the Union**;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Recital A

Draft opinion

A. whereas the financial crisis has

Amendment

A. whereas the financial crisis has

undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy, **widened disparities between regions**, and led to higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

Or. en

Amendment 4 **Mara Bizzotto**

Draft opinion **Recital A**

Draft opinion

A. whereas the financial crisis **has undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to** higher unemployment rates, increased poverty and social exclusion, **and less convergence than expected**;

Amendment

A. whereas the **pursuit of cohesion policy goals has not provided a solution to the** financial crisis **but has instead brought about** higher unemployment rates **and** increased poverty and social exclusion;

Or. it

Amendment 5 **Tania González Peñas, Neoklis Sylikiotis**

Draft opinion **Recital A**

Draft opinion

A. whereas the financial crisis has undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to higher unemployment rates, **increased** poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

Amendment

A. whereas the financial crisis has undermined the positive effects of cohesion policy and led to **even** higher unemployment rates, **even** more poverty and social exclusion, and less convergence than expected;

Or. es

Amendment 6
Thomas Mann

Draft opinion
Recital A a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Aa. whereas the EU bailout policy has led to the implementation of necessary structural reforms and has enabled the countries affected to make considerable progress in overcoming the economic, financial and social crisis;

Or. de

Amendment 7
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Recital A a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Aa. whereas the latest figures of 2013 portray long-term unemployment at a historically high level of 5,1% of the labour force in the Union; and whereas long-term unemployment has crucial individual consequences throughout the life-cycle and can become structural, particularly in peripheral regions;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Monika Vana, Karima Delli
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 % decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions, especially those facing demographic challenges, have not **contributed** to the Europe 2020 headline target of 75 % employment by 2020;

Amendment

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 % decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions, especially those facing demographic challenges, have not **been able to adequately contribute** to the Europe 2020 **targets, especially not to the** headline target of 75 % employment by 2020, **the target to decrease poverty by 20 million people as well as the target to limit early-school leaving**;

Or. en

Amendment 9

Eva Kaili

Draft opinion

Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 % decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions, especially those facing demographic challenges, **have not contributed to** the Europe 2020 headline target of 75 % employment by 2020;

Amendment

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 % decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions, especially those facing demographic challenges, **are moving away from** the Europe 2020 headline target of 75 % employment by 2020;

Or. en

Amendment 10

Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion

Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 %

Amendment

B. whereas there has recently been a 15 %

decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions, *especially those facing demographic challenges, have not contributed to the Europe 2020 headline target of 75 % employment by 2020;*

decline in public investment in the EU in real terms, and whereas many regions *face difficulties in achieving EU 2020 targets given that in transition and less developed regions, employment rates are on average around 10 percentage points below the national target as compared to only 3 percentage points below in the more developed regions;*

Or. en

Amendment 11
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas regions which suffer from severe and permanent natural or demographic handicaps usually have higher unemployment rates, less economic growth and a lack of significant investment leading to a structural divergence in the union;

Or. en

Amendment 12
Thomas Mann

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

Amendment

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create jobs, if used efficiently;

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create *high-quality, sustainable* jobs, if

used efficiently;

Or. de

Amendment 13
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds *are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create jobs, if used efficiently;*

Amendment

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds *can help to reduce internal competitive disparities and structural imbalances in regions that need it most, if used efficiently and with increased accountability;*

Or. en

Amendment 14
Monika Vana, Karima Delli
on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create *jobs*, if used efficiently;

Amendment

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create *rights-based, decent and sustainable jobs as well as sustainable growth*, if used efficiently;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and *to create* jobs, if used efficiently;

Amendment

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and *its response; and, whereas such Funds can contribute to the creation of quality* jobs, if used efficiently;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

C. whereas the *Cohesion Fund and the Structural* Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create jobs, *if used efficiently*;

Amendment

C. whereas the *European Structural and Investment* Funds are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create jobs, *and whereas the European Social Fund particularly is the main instrument for investing in human capital, promoting integration in the labour market and combatting poverty and social exclusion*;

Or. en

Amendment 17
Mara Bizzotto

Draft opinion
Recital C

Draft opinion

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds *are still one of the EU's main investment instruments, with the potential to alleviate negative trends resulting from the economic crisis and to create jobs, if used efficiently;*

Amendment

C. whereas the Cohesion Fund and the Structural Funds *absorb huge resources from the EU budget but are still ineffective instruments with which to combat the crisis and unemployment, owing to their complexity and an approach to project management which, instead of addressing people's real needs, serves objectives which have not yet been made clear;*

Or. it

Amendment 18
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Recital C a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ca. whereas socioeconomic imbalances between Member States have deepened further, while the reverse is true with regard to the goal of regional convergence; whereas the core-periphery gap in unemployment has increased from 3,5% in 2000 to 10% in 2013; whereas this divergence increases the risk of fragmentation and threatens EU economic stability and social cohesion; and whereas the Sixth Cohesion Report highlights the role that the Structural Funds play in overcoming inequality especially during the crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Thomas Mann

PE551.875v01-00

10/31

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Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Considers it regrettable that the job creation potential of EU funds is still insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened;

Amendment

1. Considers it regrettable that the job creation potential of EU funds is still insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened, *particularly with a view to supporting micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, which provide more than 80 % of the jobs in the EU;*

Or. de

Amendment 20
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Considers it regrettable that *the job creation potential of EU funds is still insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened;*

Amendment

1. Considers it regrettable that *EU funds are not as effective as possible in creating jobs; stresses that further moves towards results-based policy making would improve their efficiency and contribute considerably towards smart, sustainable growth;*

Or. en

Amendment 21
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Considers it regrettable that the job creation potential of EU funds is still

Amendment

1. Considers it regrettable that the job creation potential of EU funds is still

insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened;

insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened *through more efficient and result oriented implementation; expresses in this regard its concern about delays in the adoption and beginning of implementation of operational programs for the programming period 2014-2020 and urges the Commission to speed up the process; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ease the access to funding for all beneficiaries through better management and use of simplified costs;*

Or. en

Amendment 22
Tania González Peñas, Neoklis Sylikiotis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Considers it regrettable that the job creation potential of EU funds is still insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened;

Amendment

1. Considers it regrettable that the potential of EU funds for the creation of **high-quality** jobs is still insufficient, and notes that it should be further strengthened;

Or. es

Amendment 23
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to design tailor-made policies to support quality job creation for the long-term unemployed, senior unemployed people, women and other

priority groups hit especially hard by the crisis;

Or. en

Amendment 24

Neoklis Sylikiotis, Paloma López Bermejo, Tania González Peñas, Inês Cristina Zuber

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Considers that austerity measures in several Member States are having a negative impact on jobs and growth, resulting in decreasing investments, increasing unemployment, and in the destruction of the job creation potential; considers that all the new projects and investments promoted by EU funds should have an employment clause that includes the obligation to create new and non-precarious jobs;

Or. en

Amendment 25

Neoklis Sylikiotis, Paloma López Bermejo, Tania González Peñas, Inês Cristina Zuber

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Calls for an inclusive jobs and growth strategy that will tackle unemployment and secure more growth, more jobs with enhanced workers' rights, and access to public health and education as one of the means of achieving the economic, social and territorial cohesion that is needed in the EU; considers that the ultimate goal should be sustainable development and a

high quality of life, together with prosperity and decent work for everyone;

Or. en

Amendment 26
Thomas Mann

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in prefinancing once it has been released;

Amendment

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people *in some of the Member States hardest hit by the crisis* is still *far* too high; calls on *those Member States in particular* to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in prefinancing once it has been released;

Or. de

Amendment 27
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people *is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released;*

Amendment

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people *remains high in some Member States; encourages Member States to use EU funds to complement and enhance national programmes aimed at boosting regional competitiveness, employment and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit, particularly amongst young people;*

Amendment 28
Tania González Peñas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best **and promptest** possible use of the money available **under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released;**

Amendment

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best possible use of the money available, **giving priority to the creation of stable employment for young people, including those in the 25-30 age bracket;**

Amendment 29
Paloma López Bermejo, Neoklis Sylikiotis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released;

Amendment

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released, **with adequate involvement of social partners;**

Amendment 30
Milan Zver

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released;

Amendment

2. Considers it regrettable that the unemployment rate among young people is still too high; calls on the Member States to make the best and promptest possible use of the money available under the Youth Employment Initiative, especially the EUR 1 billion in pre-financing once it has been released; ***calls on European higher education institutions to put more effort in adapting their programs to the needs of the labour market and society in general, which can help fighting the youth unemployment on a large scale;***

Or. en

Amendment 31
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Points out that the number of early school leavers in Europe is still very high and is affecting the youth unemployment rate and that this problem therefore needs to be tackled by modernising education systems and curricula, making use of European Social Fund (ESF) assistance;

Or. It

Amendment 32
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Stresses that social, economic and territorial cohesion in the Union has to take into account the protection of employment rights which have been dismantled in many countries as a consequence of the economic crisis; believes that structural reforms in the Union should not come at the expense of workers' and social rights;

Or. en

Amendment 33
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Underlines the importance of the gender dimension of job creation; calls on the Commission to allocate sufficient funding in order to tackle unemployment of women as well as the still existing pay gap which disadvantages women in many Member States; is of the opinion that women could benefit from technological advances in order to have more flexible working hours and that the Commission has to invest on that issue;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Calls on the Commission to pay special attention to minority groups across the Union, which suffer from all forms of social exclusion and therefore are more susceptible to suffer from structural unemployment; considers that any policy planning towards social cohesion in the Union has to take into account the integration of minorities;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Tania González Peñas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;

deleted

Or. es

Amendment 36
Thomas Mann

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability; ***calls for efforts to focus on small and medium-sized enterprises;***

Or. de

Amendment 37

Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. ***Emphasises*** that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; ***calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;***

Amendment

3. ***Notes*** that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund (***ESF***) and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; ***strongly believes that the ESF should be used to support rather than subsidise national approaches in the Member States;***

Or. en

Amendment 38

Monika Vana, Karima Delli

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability, ***gender equality and social inclusion***;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Danuta Jazłowiecka

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability; ***at the same time underlines that training programmes financed under ESF should be addressed also to entrepreneurs and staff at managerial level in order to ensure sustainable development of companies, especially SMEs that generate the majority of job places in the EU***;

Or. en

Amendment 40
Anne Sander

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability;

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability; ***calls, in particular, on the Member States and the Commission to continue to work to improve and extend the EURES platform as an effective tool to encourage worker mobility in Europe, and in particular cross-border mobility, by improving workers' knowledge of the EU labour market, informing them of job opportunities and helping them with formalities;***

Or. fr

Amendment 41
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and efficiently as possible with a view to

Amendment

3. Emphasises that, on account of changes in production patterns ***and the extended retirement age***, the role of the European Social Fund and investment in adapting workers' skills have grown significantly; calls on the Member States and the Commission to ensure that available resources are used as effectively and

ensuring workers' employability;

efficiently as possible with a view to ensuring workers' employability, *including through timely and efficient implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative, increased investments in skills, in modernisation of labour markets, in combating poverty and social exclusion, and strengthening of social protection systems;*

Or. en

Amendment 42
Anne Sander

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 – subparagraph 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Encourages Member States and the Commission to develop and support the cross-border EURES networks by granting them sufficient funding through the EaSI programme, as cross-border workers are the first to be hit by adaptation problems and difficulties in securing recognition of professional qualifications; notes that by bringing together public employment services, the social partners and local and regional authorities these networks encourage and support cross-border mobility, in particular through cross-border apprenticeship programmes;

Or. fr

Amendment 43
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal for a European framework for minimum wage, which must respect national practices and industrial relations systems;

Or. en

Amendment 44

Eva Kaili

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Emphasises the need to direct the creation of new quality jobs with the assistance of new technologies; is of the opinion that the Commission should link the reduction of unemployment with the tools of the Digital Agenda and the Horizon 2020;

Or. en

Amendment 45

Monika Vana, Karima Delli

on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to

4. Notes that the EU should invest in businesses and support business creation, with a particular focus on SMEs, micro-enterprises and the social and solidarity economy; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund

generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years.

for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years, *on condition that the findings of the ILO study, which suggest that the EFSI should support strategic investments targeted to regions with high unemployment and poverty, are respected.*

Or. en

Amendment 46
Anne Sander

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years.

Amendment

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation, *primarily SMEs, which make up 99 % of EU enterprises and generate 85 % of the new jobs created in Europe, by making it easier for them to obtain financing, but also by simplifying rules, in particular through the ongoing REFIT programme, and by reducing the administrative burden on businesses and doing away with unnecessary bureaucracy*; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years.

Or. fr

Amendment 47
Tania González Peñas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years.

Amendment

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years; ***takes the view that priority should be given to investment in cooperatives and socially inclusive, sustainable and solidarity-based companies.***

Or. es

Amendment 48
Georgi Pirinski

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years.

Amendment

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a complementary ***to the Cohesion Policy*** tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years; ***calls on the Commission to speed up its mid-term review of the Europe 2020 Strategy in order to ensure that the EFSI is clearly targeted to overcoming the failure so far in progress towards achieving the main goals of the Strategy in the area of employment and poverty reduction.***

Or. en

Amendment 49
Paloma López Bermejo, Neoklis Sylikiotis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to *invest in businesses and support business creation; welcomes*, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a *complementary tool with the potential to generate 1.3 million additional jobs within three years*.

Amendment

4. Stresses that it is high time for the EU to *support public investment to increase employment and social and regional cohesion; regrets*, therefore, the intention to set up the new European Fund for Strategic Investments as a *tool to guarantee private investments without any conditionality as regards its effects on employment or social and regional cohesion*.

Or. en

Amendment 50
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Emphasises that cohesion policy should be used to generate smart and sustainable growth in the regions that need it most by supporting the start-up and development of micro, small and medium sized enterprises through a range of measures and financial instruments;

Or. en

Amendment 51
Danuta Jazlowiecka

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. calls on Member States, in view of reaching socio-economic convergence, to ensure that also outer and small regions have the necessary capacity such as human resources to absorb available funds;

Or. en

Amendment 52

Eva Kaili

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Urges the Commission to investigate the need for the creation of a "fiscal space" as a vital short-term measure to combat cyclical unemployment, especially for Member States with extraordinarily high levels of unemployment.

Or. en

Amendment 53

Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Encourages Member States to use the European Structural and Investment Funds to focus on creating jobs and business opportunities by providing a hospitable environment and the right regulatory framework for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, businesses

and start-ups;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Danuta Jazłowiecka

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Calls on Member States, in view of negative effects that population ageing and demographic challenges have on the labour markets, to develop projects that address population decline and support mobility;

Or. en

Amendment 55
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. Calls on the Commission to ensure investments in economically weaker regions suffering from high unemployment, and in SMEs in such regions, given their limited access to financing, in order to ensure that these efforts have a meaningful impact where they are most needed, with choices made with due regard to the investments' economic features; shares the Commission's view that there is a need for a skilled work-force in growing sectors such as the digital economy, green sectors and health care;

Amendment 56
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4c. Recalls that aligning wages with productivity is important not only for social cohesion, but also for maintaining a strong economy and a productive labour force;

Or. en

Amendment 57
Danuta Jazłowiecka

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4c. Stresses the role of territorial cohesion and in this respect underlines the importance of investments in cross-border infrastructure, such as inland waterways, and their role in fostering socio-economic development of regions.

Or. en

Amendment 58
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4c. Considers that cohesion policy measures have an essential role to play in reducing internal competitive disparities and structural imbalances in regions that need it most; calls on the Commission to consider appropriate solutions for those Member States that, though facing very high unemployment are obliged to return EU funds owing to co-financing problems; calls on the Commission to consider pre-financing in order to facilitate the full use of funds by these Member States in the 2014-2020 period, while always ensuring that the principle of budgetary accountability is upheld;

Or. en

Amendment 59
Amjad Bashir

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4d. Considers that budgetary discipline is of vital importance for achieving growth and job creation that is smart and sustainable; calls for a renewed focus on better spending and combatting fraud.

Or. en

Amendment 60
Eva Kaili

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

4d. Stresses that growth and jobs policies have differentiated territorial impacts, depending on the specific situation in each EU region, and that regional disparities have been widening since the beginning of the crisis; stresses that the CSRs should take into account territorial differences within Member States to boost growth and jobs while preserving territorial cohesion;

Or. en