



2018/2119(INI)

23.1.2019

AMENDMENTS

1 - 63

Draft opinion

Iskra Mihaylova

(PE631.920v01-00)

European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey
2019
(2018/2119(INI))

Amendment 1
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;*

Amendment

1. *Considers the European economic growth assessment to be excessively optimistic, given that at the end of 2018 the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which assesses manufacturing activity, noted the lowest growth of the past four years in the euro area; points out that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern, also because of the widening gap between the richer and poorer regions;*

Or. it

Amendment 2
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;*

Amendment

1. *Notes that, even though the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed, vulnerabilities nevertheless persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern, especially in southern Europe; notes with concern that, although unemployment has returned to pre-crisis levels, it is still high in several Member States;*

Amendment 3 Iskra Mihaylova

Draft opinion Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, **and** regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, ***unemployment rates still remain uneven across EU countries***, regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern; ***notwithstanding that investments increased, their impact on productivity has been insufficient; therefore, a better targeting of the investments of cohesion policy and their complementarities with other Union programmes, with public and private investments, are necessary in order to raise productivity and smooth out differences across member states.***

Or. en

Amendment 4 Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen ***considerably*** and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has ***almost closed***; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has ***diminished***; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, ***the economy***

benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

remains fragile, growth has not benefited everyone equally and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

Or. pt

Amendment 5
Maria Gabriela Zoană

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and **regional** and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, **sustainable** growth has not benefited everyone equally, and **economic, social** and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Stanislav Polčák

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern;

Amendment

1. Acknowledges that the EU economy is continuing to grow, employment has risen considerably and the investment gap brought about by the crisis has almost closed; points out nevertheless that vulnerabilities persist, growth has not benefited everyone equally, and regional and territorial disparities are still a key issue of concern; **points out, in this connection, the expected negative impact**

of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union, both on certain regions and on cohesion policy as a whole;

Or. cs

Amendment 7
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

(1a) Points out that economic growth remains vulnerable to continued geopolitical tensions and persisting uncertainties surrounding the Union's future relations with the UK, which is having an impact on global and European trade; notes that certain European regions are particularly exposed to the impact of Brexit; stresses that one of the European Semester objectives should be to minimise the adverse impact of Brexit in the various European regions;

Or. pt

Amendment 8
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Stresses the importance of choosing further social, employment and statistical indicators to consider alongside GDP, in order to analyse growth in the current year in a comprehensive and accurate manner and to identify more efficient and effective policies, whilst at

the same time avoiding past errors of judgment such as austerity;

Or. it

Amendment 9
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Stresses that the EU should support the postulated recovery with economic policies that protect public services and improve the quality and accessibility of services of general interest;

Or. pt

Amendment 10
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Recalls that, in 2017, public investment as a percentage of GDP in the EU (2.7%) and in the euro area (2.6%) was well below the average for the last ten years (3.2% and 3.0%, respectively); notes that, for this reason, public investment must be significantly boosted to compensate for the years of decline triggered by the financial crisis and meet the urgent need for investment in infrastructure and public services; observes that public investment remains a priority and should not be undermined by efforts to promote public-private partnerships;

Amendment 11
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1d. Notes that, according to the European Investment Bank (EIB), EU investment in infrastructure is still 20% lower than the pre-crisis level, 34% of municipalities having indicated that it is failing to meet their requirements, while the EU needs annual infrastructural investment of at least € 335 billion annually;

Or. pt

Amendment 12
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1e. Points out that implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) should focus on improving living conditions and achieving sustainable growth, not just debt relief;

Or. pt

Amendment 13
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1f. *Notes that the best response to citizens' concerns is to support a rise in real earnings and seek more investment to create quality jobs, boost domestic demand and ensure a fairer distribution of the wealth generated; considers that the EU should contribute to the flexibility of the Stability and Growth Pact by creating fiscal space for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights;*

Or. pt

Amendment 14
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1g. *Recalls that workforce ageing is likely to be a significant drag on European productivity growth over the next few decades; calls on the Member States accordingly to implement structural reforms to increase the birth rate and encourage the entry of women and migrants on the labour market;*

Or. pt

Amendment 15
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 h (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1h. *Points out that underfunded public services and cuts to social services,*

including healthcare, education, housing, childcare and long-term care services, have a particular impact on women and on the least favoured segments of the population;

Or. pt

Amendment 16
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 i (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1i. Points out that European Semester should, as a matter of priority, contribute to the realisation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and monitor the delivery of its 20 key principles, with particular emphasis on ensuring equality of treatment and opportunities between women and men, social protection, access to all essential services, the right to equal pay for work of equal value, and the right to affordable care services of good quality;

Or. pt

Amendment 17
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 j (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1j. Calls for the macroeconomic imbalance scoreboard to include social indicators also, which must be placed on an equal footing with economic indicators;

Amendment 18
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 k (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1k. Points to the importance of maintaining the focus of the European Semester on delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, with greater coordination of national and EU policy, in order to create more good-quality jobs in the EU and reduce pay and pension gaps;

Or. pt

Amendment 19
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 l (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1l. Points out that the European Semester must contribute consistently to the elimination of inequalities and disparities, in particular of a social, economic and territorial nature between the different regions of the EU; stresses that the continuing geographical imbalance in EIB investments is unacceptable, and that it is of great concern that, in 2017, half the Member States received 80% total EIB investment in the EU, while the other 14 Member States received only 10 %;

Or. pt

Amendment 20
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 m (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1m. Recalls that the European Semester should highlight the importance of stepping up measures to combat tax evasion and fraud, thereby generating public investment funding and additional resources to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights;

Or. pt

Amendment 21
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 n (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1n. Stresses that ageing populations should prompt governments to invest more in protecting older people and not less, as suggested by the Stability and Growth Pact, that public investment in health should be proportional to need, that accessibility to healthcare should be assessed regularly, taking into account average individual available income and the impact on households; that measures must be taken to promote and monitor investment in preventive healthcare, which is essential in an ageing society;

Or. pt

Amendment 22

Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 o (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1o. Stresses that low earnings in Europe remain a challenge, that the concentration of workers at the lower end of the wage scale and high poverty rates are a clear sign of wage-setting policies and that the gender pay gap, coupled with precarious employment, especially among young people, remains a serious problem that needs to be resolved urgently;

Or. pt

Amendment 23
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 p (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1p. Stresses that the European Semester should focus on increasing productivity through increased investment in infrastructure, education and training, health and research and innovation and that greater productivity should be reflected in increased pay;

Or. pt

Amendment 24
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 q (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1q. Stresses that the European Semester should include a thorough analysis of the medium and long-term labour market impact of technological change; points out that, while technological change can create opportunities for new or better jobs and safer workplaces, it is today frequently associated with the elimination of jobs or the creation of precarious jobs;

Or. pt

Amendment 25
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 r (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1r. Points out that the European Semester should take into account the promotion of access to effective social protection in line with the relevant principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, that Member States must be encouraged to take the necessary measures to remove obstacles to workers' enjoyment of social protection rights and create comprehensive social protection systems and that the European Semester should therefore monitor Member States' progress in adopting legislation and developing systems that guarantee access to social protection for all;

Or. pt

Amendment 26
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 s (new)

1s. Stresses that the social and economic development of the EU depends on adherence to our fundamental values;

Or. pt

Amendment 27
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 t (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1t. Stresses that one of the priorities of the European Semester must be to protect and support populations and territories suffering the adverse effects of globalisation (relocation, job losses);

Or. pt

Amendment 28
Iskra Mihaylova

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy ***plays a significant role*** alongside appropriate reforms ***in boosting economic growth, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;***

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy ***provide the largest EU financial support, amounting to EUR €638 billion together with national co-financing for the period 2014-2020 and provides European added value by contributing to economic growth, social inclusion, innovation and environmental protection, by addressing new challenges like security***

and refugee integration, as well as by contributing to public and private investment, alongside with appropriate reforms;

Or. en

Amendment 29
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms ***in boosting*** economic growth, ***inclusiveness and*** institutional and administrative *capacity*;

Amendment

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate ***and tangible*** reforms ***designed to boost*** economic growth ***and inclusiveness, in addition to*** institutional *capacity* and administrative *governance*; ***encourages, in this regard, a reform which simplifies current European investment tools and makes them more flexible, to enable European companies and citizens to gain easier and more immediate access to them;***

Or. it

Amendment 30
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger

Amendment

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and ***some*** structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger

and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms in boosting ***economic growth***, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms in boosting ***sustainable development***, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

Or. it

Amendment 31
Maria Gabriela Zoană

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are ***key*** to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms in boosting economic growth, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

Amendment

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are ***an important part*** to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms in boosting ***sustainable*** economic growth, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

Or. en

Amendment 32
Stanislav Polčák

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy plays a significant role alongside

Amendment

2. Supports the view that investment, innovation, knowledge and structural reforms are key to making Europe stronger and more cohesive; points out, in this context, that investment under the cohesion policy, ***whose role is vital and cannot be***

appropriate reforms in boosting economic growth, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

replaced by other instruments, plays a significant role alongside appropriate reforms in boosting economic growth, inclusiveness and institutional and administrative capacity;

Or. cs

Amendment 33
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. *Calls for the European Semester to include poverty eradication as one of its priorities, as indicated in the Sustainable Development Goals;*

Or. pt

Amendment 34
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. *Urges that the impact of research and innovation policies on the development and economic and social growth of the Member States be evaluated;*

Or. pt

Amendment 35
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take further measures to leverage private and public investments, to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Amendment

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ***step up their cooperation and to*** take further measures to leverage private and public investments, to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Or. it

Amendment 36

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take further measures to leverage private and public investments, to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Amendment

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take further measures to leverage private and public investments, ***without resorting to operations involving excessive financial risk, in order*** to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Or. it

Amendment 37

Maria Gabriela Zoană

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take further measures to

Amendment

3. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to take further measures to

leverage private and public investments, to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

leverage private and public investments ***and more partnerships in order to create new jobs***, to fully maximise the added value of cohesion policy funds and their complementarities and synergies with other Union programmes and financial instruments;

Or. en

Amendment 38
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Emphasises that the degree of involvement of the social partners at national level is still low and that the Commission and Member State governments should do more to ensure that they are consulted;

Or. pt

Amendment 39
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Recommends that the European Semester actively contribute to the strengthening of cohesion policy, which has played a substantial role in the recovery of the EU economy by promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;

Or. pt

Amendment 40
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3c. Points out that public investment in the EU is still below its pre-crisis level, with major gaps in some of the countries most affected by the crisis as the public investment in the EU fell from 3.4 % of GDP in 2008 to 2.7 % in 2016;

Or. pt

Amendment 41
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and *the strengthened links between* cohesion policy *and* the European Semester process *for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth*;

4. Takes note of the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and *supports the need to separate* cohesion policy *from* the European Semester process, *with a view to the prosperity and well-being of EU citizens*;

Or. it

Amendment 42
Bronis Ropè

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) *and the strengthened links between* cohesion policy *and the European*

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF); *however, deplores the decrease of resources proposed for cohesion policy*;

Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

insists that funding for cohesion policy ***should be maintained on the level of the current MFF*** for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Maria Gabriela Zoană

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. ***Welcomes*** the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. ***Notes*** the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Or. en

Amendment 44
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ***and the strengthened*** links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) ***which seek to avoid any overlapping of programmes and foster further simplification; welcomes the proposals which aim to strengthen*** links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Or. it

Amendment 45
Krzysztof Hetman

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth; ***calls for the swift and timely adoption of MFF package and the cohesion policy regulations in order to avoid any possible delays in the implementation;***

Or. en

Amendment 46
Stanislav Polčák

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth; ***warns of the consequences of a possible late adoption of the Multiannual Financial Framework;***

Or. cs

Amendment 47
Stanislav Polčák

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth; ***while understanding the rationale for it, deplores the fact that fewer resources are earmarked for spending on cohesion policy in the proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework and that the downward trends are continuing;***

Or. cs

Amendment 48 Stanislav Polčák

Draft opinion Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth; ***welcomes the requirement for a quarter of expenditure under the new Multiannual Financial Framework to be spent on climate objectives, given that climate change is an important long-term issue;***

Or. cs

Amendment 49 Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth;

Amendment

4. Welcomes the proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the strengthened links between cohesion policy and the European Semester process for delivering sustainable and inclusive growth, ***paying particular attention to outermost, remote, least developed or underpopulated regions;***

Or. pt

Amendment 50 Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Calls for the European Semester to actively contribute to meeting, in a sustainable manner, the demographic challenges (ageing, population loss, demographic pressure, inability to attract or retain adequate human capital) that are affecting European regions in a variety of specific ways; stresses in particular the need to provide adequate support to certain territories such as a number of outermost regions;

Or. pt

Amendment 51 Bronis Ropé

Draft opinion Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

Amendment

5. Welcomes the stronger focus of the

5. Welcomes the stronger focus of the

2019 European Semester on investment needs to **guide** programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs **that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period** will be identified;

2019 European Semester on investment needs to **support** programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs will be identified; **considers that more focus should be placed on fighting inequalities also through cohesion policy funding by implementing effective tools and targeting resources to this end;**

Or. en

Amendment 52
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. **Welcomes** the stronger focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment needs to guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

Amendment

5. **Takes note of** the stronger focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment needs to guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

Or. it

Amendment 53
Maria Gabriela Zorană

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. **Welcomes the stronger** focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment

Amendment

5. **Notes the** focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment needs to

needs to guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

Or. en

Amendment 54
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. ***Welcomes*** the stronger focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment needs to guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

Amendment

5. ***Notes*** the stronger focus of the 2019 European Semester on investment needs to guide programming decisions for the period from 2021 to 2027 and the envisaged new annex to the 2019 country reports, in which investment needs that are relevant for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Cohesion Fund (CF) during the 2021-2027 period will be identified;

Or. it

Amendment 55
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Stresses the importance of continuing and stepping up ESF+ support for the Youth Guarantee, of the Youth

Employment Initiative and of the European Solidarity Corps, in view of their role in meeting the challenges of employment, economic growth, social inclusion, learning and vocational training;

Or. pt

Amendment 56
Raffaele Fitto, Ruža Tomašić

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Considers that there is a need for further simplification and greater flexibility among Union funds, programmes and instruments to make EU funding for strategic investment projects simpler and more efficient.

Amendment

6. Considers that there is a need for further simplification and greater flexibility among Union funds, programmes and instruments to make EU funding for strategic investment projects simpler and more efficient, *in particular for the regions whose development is lagging behind, as they are more restricted in their access to, or use of, funding, mainly due to bureaucratic and administrative difficulties; hopes, in this regard, that reforms will be promoted within the Member States to make the principle of sound administration more efficient.*

Or. it

Amendment 57
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Considers that there is a need for further simplification and greater flexibility among Union funds, programmes and

Amendment

6. Considers that there is a need for further simplification and greater flexibility among Union funds, programmes and

instruments to make EU funding for strategic investment projects simpler *and more efficient*.

instruments to make EU funding for strategic investment projects simpler, *more efficient and geographically balanced*.

Or. pt

Amendment 58
Maria Gabriela Zoană

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Calls on the Commission and the Member States for a thorough and complete monitoring of all housing tenures as well as research and examination, geographical differentiation between low demand areas and heated housing markets among other important issues in order to improve the analytical basis of the housing assessment in the Country Reports and the Country Specific Recommendations.

Or. en

Amendment 59
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Stresses the need to take into account the provisions of Article 349 TFEU regarding specific measures to meet the challenges facing the outermost regions owing to their geographical remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a few products;

Amendment 60
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. Notes that cohesion policy must aim to promote the harmonious and balanced development of the whole Union and its regions, leading to a strengthening of its economic, social and territorial cohesion, in a spirit of solidarity and with the aim of promoting sustainable growth, employment, social inclusion and reducing disparities between and within regions, as well as the backwardness of the least-favoured regions;

Or. pt

Amendment 61
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Points out that the 7th Cohesion Report draws attention to the great diversity of regions and territories, including those in the current categories, owing to their specific circumstances (ultra-peripheral location, sparse population, low income, low growth, etc.), making a tailored territorial approach essential;

Or. pt

Amendment 62
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6d. Calls for the European Semester to support European territorial cooperation (ETC) in all its dimensions (cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation, both internal and external), thereby ensuring action to meet the overall objectives of economic, social and territorial cohesion objectives, as well as contributing to solidarity;

Or. pt

Amendment 63
Liliana Rodrigues

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6e. Reiterates the importance of the implementation of macroregional strategies in achieving cohesion policy objectives;

Or. pt