



MEPs strike deal on European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation

An informal deal on a new European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) for 2014-2020, which gathers three existing programme - the Progress Programme, the European Employment Services (EURES) and the Microfinance Facility- was reached by negotiators for Parliament and the Irish Presidency of the Council on Wednesday.

"It's the first deal reached on a social programme under the multi-annual financial framework for 2014-2020. The EU has now a consistent instrument made of the Progress Programme for employment and social solidarity, the European Employment Services to support workers' mobility and the Microfinance tool for developing and expanding social enterprises in the EU", said Employment and Social Affairs Committee Chair Pervenche Berès (S&D, FR).

"In times of the economic and social crisis this programme is of utmost importance to support the creation of jobs and prevent social exclusion. As requested by the European Parliament, the Programme will focus on activities related to employment and social inclusion. Microcredits for the most vulnerable and mobility programmes for young people play an essential role in this context", said rapporteur Jutta Steinruck (S&D, DE).

During the negotiations, MEPs ensured more consistency between the three programmes under one instrument and more financial transparency by providing details on how the funds should be spent within the different programmes.

For the EURES axis, MEPs added the creation of cross-border partnerships between employment services of cross-border regions to foster workers' mobility in the EU.

They also secured the involvement of social partners and civil society organisations in the implementation of the programme.

Background

The new programme is part of the EU regional, employment and social policy for 2014-2020. It gathers three existing programmes: The Progress Programme for Employment and Social Inclusion, EURES (European Employment Services) to find information on jobs and learning opportunities in Europe and the Microfinance Facility to increase the availability of microcredits.

Of the total financial envelope, 61% will be allocated to Progress, 18% to EURES and 21% to Microfinance and Social Entrepreneurship. The European Commission proposed a budget 958.19 million euros for the period 2014-2020 but the final figures depend on the MFF.

Next steps

The draft text still needs to be endorsed by the COREPER (Committee of Permanent Representatives of EU member states in Brussels) on 10 July and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee as a whole.

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