



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2011/2071(INI)

26.5.2011

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination
(2011/2071(INI))

Rapporteur (*): Olle Ludvigsson

(*) Associated committee – Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. whereas the European Employment Strategy and the Employment Guidelines based on Article 148 TFEU provide a policy framework for the employment and labour market measures to be implemented so as to meet the Europe 2020 objectives,
- B. whereas employment, labour market and social policies are an essential part of the reforms to be carried out under both the macro-economic surveillance and the thematic surveillance of the Europe 2020 strategy,
- C. whereas there is a need to ensure a strengthened interaction between employment, social and economic policies in the context of the European Semester, and whereas this has to be done in a manner fostering democratic accountability, ownership and legitimacy,
 - 1. Considers that Europe 2020 and the European Semester as a framework for strengthened economic and social governance have a potential to help reinforce a common approach to the challenges, the responses and the assessment of the employment and social situation in the Member States; deplores, however, the failure to involve European Parliament in this process during the first European Semester;
 - 2. Calls on the Council and the Commission, when providing policy guidance to Member States, to respect the principles of subsidiarity and social dialogue in the field of wages and pensions as well and, in keeping with Article 153(5) TFEU, to respect the competences of the Member States and social partners in these areas;
 - 3. States its intention to contribute actively to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy and the European Semester, including to its employment and social aspects, keeping them high on the political agenda throughout the year;
 - 4. States, furthermore, its intention to express its views on the employment and social aspects of Europe 2020 by means of a dedicated resolution to be adopted in view of the Spring European Council;
 - 5. Declares its readiness to engage in a regular policy dialogue and exchange of views with relevant stakeholders, including the social partners and NGOs, on the employment and social aspects of Europe 2020 and the European Semester, and in this framework:
 - a) Invites the Commission to present to the Parliament its Annual Growth Survey, including the draft Joint Employment Report, its proposal for annual Employment Guidelines and any proposal for Country Specific Recommendations made on the basis of Article 148(4) TFEU,
 - b) Encourages the Employment Committee (EMCO) to share the results of its employment surveillance with the responsible committee of the European

Parliament,

- c) Invites the social partners, social NGOs and other stakeholders to take part in a regular exchange of views with the Parliament, in particular on the implementation of employment and social policies and on the progress towards achieving the related EU targets;
6. Calls on the Commission to inform the Parliament of the results of the activities carried out under the Mutual Learning Programme, in particular in the areas highlighted through the strategic guidance of the European Council;
7. Underlines the importance of ensuring a mutually-reinforced interaction between micro and macro-economic policies on the one hand, and employment and social policies on the other hand, which is essential to be able to deliver on the overall goals of Europe 2020;
8. Remains committed to paying special attention, including in its deliberations on the European Semester, to the impact of employment and social situation on macro economic situation and vice versa.