



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

---

*Committee on Regional Development*

---

**2013/2134(INI)**

16.7.2013

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 21**

**Draft opinion**  
**Tamás Deutsch**  
(PE514.705v01-00)

European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation of 2013 priorities  
(2013/2134(INI))

AM\_Com\_NonLegOpinion

**Amendment 1**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Welcomes the 2013 Country-specific Recommendations and especially their focus on **ambitious** measures to reignite growth, tackle unemployment and create jobs and enhance the competitiveness of EU economies;

*Amendment*

1. Welcomes the 2013 Country-specific Recommendations (**CSR**) and especially their focus on measures to reignite growth, tackle unemployment and create jobs and enhance the competitiveness of EU economies; **notes with concern that under the persistent pressure of the economic, social, financial and sovereign debt crisis, the CSR on the whole are not ambitious enough; in light of this, points out at the lack of recommendations to restore urgently needed lending to the real economy and SMEs, strengthening of the link between public and private investment capacities, fighting tax fraud and addressing the social dimension of EMU;**

Or. en

**Amendment 2**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**1a. Reiterates the position of the European Parliament on the need to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of the process of the European Semester; stresses the fact that National Parliaments, and regional and local authorities, have very limited access to the process of the European Semester and their role is practically ignored within the**

*CSR, despite the fact that their contribution and participation are necessary if the chances of meeting the Europe 2020 targets are to be improved;*

Or. en

**Amendment 3**  
**Michael Theurer**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Reiterates the importance of Cohesion Policy as the main investment instrument, playing a central role in combating the crisis and engaging the EU and its regions on a path of sustainable growth; Hence underlines the importance of securing adequate budgetary provisions in the context of the MFF negotiations to the European Union Structural and Investment Funds, noting in particular their key share of investment in a range of areas such as employment, innovation, sustainable development and support to SMEs;

*Amendment*

2. Reiterates the importance of Cohesion Policy as the main investment instrument, **at European level**, playing a central role in combating the crisis and engaging the EU and its regions on a path of sustainable growth; Hence underlines the importance of securing adequate budgetary provisions **and macroeconomic conditionality** in the context of the MFF negotiations to the European Union Structural and Investment Funds, noting in particular their key share of investment in a range of areas such as employment, innovation, sustainable development and support to SMEs;

Or. de

**Amendment 4**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Reiterates the importance of Cohesion Policy as the main investment instrument, playing a central role in combating the crisis and engaging the EU and its regions

*Amendment*

2. Reiterates the importance of Cohesion Policy as the main investment instrument, playing a central role in combating the crisis, **reducing regional disparities** and

on a path of sustainable growth; Hence underlines the importance of securing adequate budgetary provisions in the context of the MFF negotiations to the European Union Structural and Investment Funds, noting in particular their key share of investment in a range of areas such as employment, innovation, sustainable development and support to SMEs;

engaging the EU and its regions on a path of sustainable growth; Hence underlines the importance of securing adequate budgetary provisions in the context of the MFF negotiations to the European Union Structural and Investment Funds, noting in particular their key share of investment in a range of areas such as employment, innovation, sustainable development and support to SMEs;

Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation ***and shift production towards*** high value-added activities; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects;

*Amendment*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation, ***a shift towards green low-carbon economy and*** high value-added activities; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to ***further strengthen as well as*** prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects;

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Oldřich Vlasák**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation and shift production towards high value-added activities; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects;

*Amendment*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation and shift production towards high value-added activities; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects *and for boosting public investments; points out to opportunities which could be used in the Member States to support public investments from the Structural Funds by providing certain flexibility to the financial procedures of these funds, e.g. by increasing the co-financing rates of the states which enter into an adjustment programme and receive the EU financial assistance or by prolonging the decommitment rule by one year for all Member States in the programming period 2007 - 2013 (as will be the case in the programming period 2014 - 2020).*

Or. en

**Amendment 7**  
**Michael Theurer**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the

*Amendment*

3. Is strongly concerned by the sharp downfall in public and private investment in the productive economy and especially at the local and regional level; Is of the

opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation and shift production towards high value-added activities; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects;

opinion that decisive measures are needed to reform product and labour markets, adopt cautious wage policies and base the future growth model on innovation and shift production towards high value-added activities; ***Takes the view that a sustainable economic policy depends on very favourable conditions for business start-ups***; Expresses its firm belief that the Structural and Investment Funds are essential in order to prevent and mitigate any shortfall in the aforementioned respects;

Or. de

**Amendment 8**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***3a. Points out that, at a time of heavy fiscal constraint and reduced lending capacity in the private sector, the EU Structural and Investment Funds, represent an essential lever for stimulating the economy, especially through the use of innovative financial instruments; believes that an increased use of innovative financial instruments within Cohesion Policy can foster public-private partnerships, achieve a multiplier effect with the EU budget, guarantee an important financing stream for strategic regional investment and raise EU growth potential; in this regard, welcomes the important role that the new innovative financial instruments will play within Cohesion policy in the programming period 2014-2020; urges the Commission to give financial instruments also a clearer position within the CSR and strengthen the alignment of the European***

*Structural and Investment Funds with the EIB programmes, particularly in the area of loan guarantees for SMEs and microenterprises;*

Or. en

**Amendment 9**

**Petru Constantin Luhan**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3a. Is concerned at the continued massive deindustrialisation of certain regions in Europe, leading to excessive unemployment and numerous demographic problems;*

Or. ro

**Amendment 10**

**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 3 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*3b. Notes with concern that the financing of the productive economy, especially SMEs, has not been restored across the whole EU, with the less developed regions taking the worst hit; points out that increasing differences in access to credit can further deepen regional divergences; hence underlines the importance of the European Structural and Investment Funds ability to link public and private investment and deliver alternative sources of financing for SMEs; calls on the Commission to guarantee, in a timely*

*manner and before the start of the programming period 2014-2020, legal clarity and transparency around the usage of the off-the-shelf innovative financial instruments;*

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Believes that whereas financial protection measures enacted by the ECB have calmed financial markets, the competitiveness problem in the euro area has been left unresolved;

*Amendment*

4. Believes that whereas financial protection measures enacted by the ECB have *contributed to the stability of the euro area and* calmed financial markets, the competitiveness problem in the euro area has been left unresolved;

Or. en

**Amendment 12**  
**Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility with a special focus on improving *the* professional opportunities *of* young people,

*Amendment*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility with a special focus on improving professional opportunities *and promoting*

in particular *of* those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs;

*business start-up programmes for young people, in particular those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs **and thus avoid aggravating the shortage of skilled manpower;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 13**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; Recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility *with* a special focus on improving the professional opportunities of young people, in particular of those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs;

*Amendment*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; Recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility; *in this regard and connected to the alarming figures of youth unemployment in Europe, calls on the Commission to put* a special focus on improving the professional opportunities of young people, in particular of those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs;

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Michael Theurer**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5**

*Draft opinion*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; Recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility with a special focus on improving the professional opportunities of young people, in particular of those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs;

*Amendment*

5. Welcomes the labour market reforms which were aimed at improving the resilience of the labour market, introducing more internal and external flexibility, reducing fragmentation and facilitating transition between jobs; Recalls however that further and more in-depth reforms are needed, notably to improve labour market mobility and especially youth mobility with a special focus on improving the professional opportunities of young people, in particular of those who face difficulties when entering the job market, to provide job-search assistance and to establish clear and transparent links between education and training in order to achieve a better match between skills and available jobs;  
*acknowledges that dual training is eminently suited to the needs of the employment market and makes it easier for young people to find their first job;*

Or. de

**Amendment 15**  
**Seán Kelly**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a. Highlights the need to prioritise all available measures to tackle the crisis of youth unemployment;**

Or. en

**Amendment 16**  
**Petru Constantin Luhan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5a. Considers that, now more than ever, structural reforms at regional, national and EU level are necessary to create employment opportunities targeted at the young workforce; stresses that these efforts should focus in particular on aligning EU employment strategies and the future requirements of the European economy;*

Or. ro

**Amendment 17**  
**Petru Constantin Luhan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*5b. Stresses the need to continue with programmes designed to encourage entrepreneurship among young people through the creation of special business start-up opportunities for them, accompanied by increased access to European funding and business advice;*

Or. ro

**Amendment 18**  
**Petru Constantin Luhan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 6 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***6a. Considers it necessary to take urgent measures to make the EU more competitive at international level and generate sustainable internal growth; stresses that efforts must be focused on the creation of innovative schemes involving cheaper and more accessible credit for SMEs and improving the business climate by promoting new sources of capital, including business-to-business lending, and facilitating access to venture capital;***

Or. ro

**Amendment 19**  
**Michael Theurer**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

7. Welcomes the diminishing number of Member States under the excessive deficit procedure; Strongly urges the Commission and the Member States to exploit all margins of flexibility inherent in the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) to balance productive public investment needs with fiscal discipline objectives, for example by excluding the aggregate volumes of national co-financing under the Structural and Investment Funds from the limits imposed by the Stability and Growth Pact, or by basing calculations for the purposes of the Pact on a Member State's net cash requirements, as opposed to its gross requirements.

7. Welcomes the diminishing number of Member States under the excessive deficit procedure ***and the fact that Member States are reducing their debts and consolidating their budgets;*** Strongly urges the Commission and the Member States to exploit all margins of flexibility inherent in the preventive arm of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) to balance productive public investment needs with fiscal discipline objectives, for example by excluding the aggregate volumes of national co-financing under the Structural and Investment Funds from the limits imposed by the Stability and Growth Pact, or by basing calculations for the purposes of the Pact on a Member State's net cash requirements, as opposed to its gross

requirements.

Or. de

**Amendment 20**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*7a. Recalls the European Parliament's position against the proposed macroeconomic conditionality in the framework of the MFF negotiations to the European Union Structural and Investment Funds as this would, without any relation between policy performance at regional and Member State level, punish regions for possible failure of compliance with economic governance procedures at national level;*

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Mojca Kleva Kekuš**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 7 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

*7b. Calls on the Commission to complete the EMU by delivering legislative proposals linked to the social pillar; stresses that a social scoreboard that would serve as a building block of this pillar needs to include also relevant regional and local specificities;*

Or. en

