



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Plenary sitting

8.9.2014

B8-0000/2014

DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Question for Oral Answer B8-0000/2014

pursuant to Rule 128(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on Employment and social aspects of the EU2020 strategy
(2014/0000(RSP))

Marita Ulvskog

on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

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United in diversity

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B8-0000/2014

**European Parliament resolution on Employment and social aspects of the EU2020 strategy
(2014/0000(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication of 19 March 2014 entitled "Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth" (COM(2014)130 final/2),
 - having regard to the European Council Conclusions of 20/21 March 2014 (EUCO 7/1/14),
 - having regard to its resolution of 16 June 2010 on EU 2020¹,
 - having regard to the oral questions to Council and the Commission on Employment and social aspects of the EU2020 strategy (O-000000 – B8-0000/2014) and (O-000000 – B8-0000/2014),
 - having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (2014/0000(RSP)),
 - having regard to Rules 128(5) and 123(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the EU is off course to meet the employment and poverty reduction headline targets of the EU2020 strategy;
- B. whereas unemployment levels have in fact continuously risen since the EU2020 strategy has been put into place in 2010, reaching an alarming level of 10.9% in 2013;
- C. whereas an additional 16 million citizens in employment are required in order to meet the 75% employment rate target in 2020;
- D. whereas, according to the latest Commission forecasts, the EU employment rate is expected to increase only by a very negligible amount, namely 10.4% in 2015;
- E. whereas divergences in employment rates are growing between Member States and across regions, leading to a polarization of the EU between the core and the periphery and thus risking to create increased social imbalances in the long-term;
- F. whereas youth unemployment levels remain an issue of growing concern, reaching an alarming level of 23.3% in 2013 in the EU on average;
- G. whereas the European Council, in its conclusions of 27 June 2014, stressed that the current EU unemployment level is unacceptably high and therefore agreed on a

¹ P7_TA(2010)0223

Strategic Agenda with a strong focus on jobs, growth and competitiveness;

1. Regrets that the Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) adopted so far as part of the annual European Semester cycles have not been sufficiently aligned with the EU2020 employment and social targets;
2. Calls on Member States to apply a more ambitious approach when translating EU targets into their own targets at national level, in particular, calls for employment targets to be broken down by age and gender in order to facilitate benchmarking;
3. Stresses the need for employment indicators to additionally focus on the quality of work in order to provide a thorough picture of national labour markets;
4. Considers that the submission of National Reports on the annual progress towards the achievement of the EU2020 Strategy goals shall be made mandatory for all Member States;
5. Welcomes the first use of the scoreboard of key employment and social indicators in this year's cycle, however, reiterates its call for the inclusion of additional indicators such as child poverty levels, access to healthcare, homelessness, and a decent work index;
6. Stresses that employment and social considerations must be put on an equal footing with macroeconomic ones; therefore calls for the organization of joint meetings between the EPSCO and ECOFIN Councils to achieve a coherent position;
7. Calls on the European Council to urgently complete the reform of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), in particular through ex-ante coordination of major economic reform plans as well as mutually agreed contractual arrangements and associated solidarity mechanisms;
8. Recalls that, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), a total of EUR 21 billion are needed to resolve the problem of youth unemployment in the Eurozone; considers therefore that increased EU funding is needed in order to attain the EU2020 strategy target of 75% employment;
9. Welcomes the announcement of the Commissions President-elect Jean-Claude Juncker concerning a comprehensive investment program to fight unemployment; stresses the need for increased infrastructure investments and encourages to link these investments to concrete employment goals.
10. Considers that social investment aimed at achieving the employment and social targets of the EU2020 Strategy shall be excluded from the calculation of national deficits for the period 2015-2020;
11. Regrets that the timetable and procedures of the European Semester have stabilized in a way which does not grant the Parliament a formal role in the cycle and hence sufficient time for deliberation prior to the Spring European Council;

12. Calls on the Commission to open a public consultation procedure for the review of the European Semester in order to improve its effectiveness and legitimacy, simultaneous with the EU2020 strategy review;
13. Regrets that the European Council has not deliberated on the poverty reduction headline target in its preliminary discussion on the assessment of the EU2020 Strategy on 20/21 March 2014;
14. Reiterates its call for more ambitious targets for reducing inequality and, more specifically, the gap between rich and poor, in particular in light of growing social divergences;
15. Calls therefore for a single indicator of "relative poverty" to be used for the measurement of Member States poverty rates to help identify those at risk of exclusion;
16. Recognizes the primary role played by Member States in achieving the EU2020 targets, in line with the subsidiarity principle, however, stresses the spill-over effect applicable in particular to employment and social challenges;
17. Stresses the need for employment and social targets to be easily monitored; calls therefore for real-time unemployment figures at NUTS 3 level in order to assess the actual situation on national labour markets;
18. Calls on the Commission to take into account the outcome of the on-going public consultation before publishing concrete proposals for the mid-term review of the strategy; insists equally that final decisions shall be consulted with the Parliament before adoption;
19. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the European Council.