



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

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*Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety*

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**2014/2059(INI)**

27.8.2014

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on the Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: implementation  
of 2014 priorities  
(2014/2059(INI))

Rapporteur: Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy

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## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines the fact that the greening of EU economies contributes to long-term and crisis-resilient growth, increases competitiveness and creates jobs, while improving the Union's energy security and energy independence;
2. Calls on the Commission to include fully the greening of EU economies in the priorities of the Annual Growth Survey 2015, the European Semester and the review of the Europe 2020 strategy, in order to support the transition to resource-efficient and low-carbon economies in the EU;
3. Reiterates the need to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies by 2020 and to shift taxes away from labour to more growth-friendly bases, such as environmental taxation;
4. Stresses the fact that improving resource efficiency is crucial, as it increases competitiveness by creating savings and reducing dependency on raw materials and energy; reiterates, therefore, its call to integrate comprehensively the resource efficiency agenda into the European Semester;
5. Considers that measurement and benchmarking methodologies for resource efficiency, and a lead indicator and target should be included in both the European Semester and the review of the Europe 2020 strategy;
6. Stresses the fact that divergences between Member States, as identified in the Annual Growth Survey 2014, are curbing the growth potential of the green economy; underlines, therefore, the urgent need to implement fully the EU waste acquis, including minimum targets, and through national waste prevention and management strategies, and to implement EU energy efficiency requirements.