OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs


Rapporteur: Niki Tzavela
SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Partnership Instrument (PI) aims to implement the international dimension of Europe 2020 strategy by supporting EU bilateral, regional and inter-regional partnerships, improve market access and develop trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies and increase EU visibility worldwide. It shall replace the financing Instrument for Cooperation with Industrialised and other high income countries and territories (ICI), extend its scope and geographic coverage to all third countries. By its set objectives and scope the PI is considered as an element of support for the external projection of EU internal policies. As such the future instrument should complement actions conducted under other EU programmes including Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, the Competitiveness and SME Programme which come into field of competences of the ITRE Committee.

While the geographic coverage and its general policy objectives are likely to make the Partnership Instrument very flexible, particular attention should be paid to avoid generating confusion among the potential applicants. The draftswoman has acknowledged the intention of the Commission to use delegated acts in order to adjust the areas of cooperation laid out in an annex of the PI. Although she agrees that this is a means to respond swiftly to future economic challenges, she reckons that the proposed wording of the annex is very comprehensive and drafted in general terms therefore making it possible to have it integrated in the text of the Regulation without impeding on its flexibility.

Having in mind the considerations above, the amendments proposed to the draft Regulation on the Partnership Instrument are meant to bring further clarifications as far as its ability to complement actions under other EU programmes is concerned. The Draftswoman considers that duplication of efforts should be avoided in order to maximise the effect of the financial support under the PI. Likewise, she suggests amendments to the annex of the PI which outlines the areas of cooperation as she believes that certain fields of activities within ITRE sphere of competence, namely, research and innovation, energy security, industry and enterprise or information and communication technologies need further emphasis.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Text proposed by the Commission</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
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<td>(3) Furthermore, since 2007 the Union has</td>
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strengthened and deepened its cooperation and partnership with developing and transition countries in Asia, Central Asia, and *Latin America and with Iraq, Iran, Yemen and South Africa* on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation (DCI).

**Justification**

Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation does not mention any other country except for South Africa. In line with the content of the current Regulation, it is important to avoid specificities, allowing a wide range of countries access to the financing instrument, while also ensuring legislative coherence.

**Amendment 2**

**Proposal for a regulation**

Recital 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(6) Furthermore, the Union has been strengthening its bilateral relations with other increasingly prominent middle-income developing countries in Asia and Latin America by expanding cooperation partnership and policy dialogues to areas and subjects beyond development cooperation. In the case of Russia, relations have also evolved, including through the Union-Russia Partnership for Modernisation, underlining the importance of Russia as a strategic partner for the Union both in bilateral relations and in global affairs.

*Amendment*

(6) Furthermore, the Union has been strengthening its bilateral relations with other increasingly prominent middle-income developing countries in Asia and Latin America by expanding cooperation partnership and policy dialogues to areas and subjects beyond development cooperation. In the case of Russia, relations have also evolved, including through *initiatives such as* the Union-Russia Partnership for Modernisation and the *EU-Russia energy dialogue*, underlining the importance of Russia as a strategic partner for the Union both in bilateral relations and in global affairs.

**Amendment 3**

**Proposal for a regulation**

Recital 7
(7) It is in the Union's interest to deepen its relations with partners who are playing an increasingly important role in the international economy and trade, in south-south trade and cooperation, in multilateral fora including Group of Twenty Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (G 20), in global governance and in addressing challenges of global concern. The Union needs to build comprehensive partnerships with new players on the international scene, in order to promote a stable and inclusive international order, pursue common global public goods, defend core interests of the Union and increase knowledge of the Union in these countries.

Amendment 4
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 8

(8) The EU needs a financial instrument of global scope allowing the financing of measures that might not qualify as ODA but which are crucially important for deepening and consolidating its relations with the partner countries concerned, in particular through policy dialogues and development of partnerships.

Amendment

(8) The EU needs a financial instrument of global scope allowing the financing of measures that might not qualify as ODA but which are crucially important for deepening and consolidating its relations with the partner countries concerned, in particular through policy dialogues and partnerships, as well as the development of key projects of mutual interest.
Amendment 5
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 10a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(10a) Actions under this Regulation can complement the external dimension of internal policies implemented under other Union programmes (such as the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and the Competitiveness and SME Programme), while ensuring that any duplication is avoided.

Justification

It is important to create synergies between the EU and third countries, particularly taking into account EU programmes such as Horizon 2020 and other programmes for SMEs.

Amendment 6
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) In particular, fighting climate change is recognised as one of the great challenges which the Union faces and the area where urgent international action is necessary. In accordance with the intent stated in the Commission Communication ‘A budget for Europe 2020’ of increasing the climate related proportion of the Union budget to at least 20%, this Regulation should contribute to that goal.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) Fighting climate change is recognised as one of the global challenges and an area where urgent international action is necessary. Therefore, the Union should act with a view to securing a global deal on tackling climate change.
(14) Under this Regulation, the Union should support the implementation of the “Europe 2020” strategy, in particular objectives relating to climate change, the transition to a greener economy and resource efficiency, trade and investment, business and regulatory cooperation with third countries, and should promote public diplomacy, education/academic cooperation and outreach activities.

Amendment

(14) Under this Regulation, the Union should support the implementation of the “Europe 2020” strategy, in particular objectives relating to climate change, security of energy supply, the transition to a greener economy and resource efficiency, science, research and innovation, trade and investment, business and regulatory cooperation with third countries and better market access for European companies, and should promote public diplomacy, education/academic cooperation and outreach activities.

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 17

(17) The Union should be able to respond in a flexible and timely manner to evolving and/or unforeseen needs in order to make its commitment to promote its interests in its relations with third countries more effective, by adopting special measures not covered by multi-annual indicative programmes.

Amendment

(17) The Union should be able to respond in a tailor-made and timely manner to evolving needs and/or unforeseen events in order to make its commitment to promote its interests in its relations with third countries more effective, by adopting special measures not covered by multi-annual indicative programmes.

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 2 – point b

(b) improving market access and developing trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies by means of economic partnerships and business and regulatory cooperation. This

Amendment

(b) improving market access and developing trade, investment and business opportunities for European companies in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, by means of economic
objective shall be measured by the Union's share in foreign trade with key partner countries and by trade and investments flows to partner countries specifically targeted by actions, programmes and measures under this Regulation; partnerships and business and regulatory cooperation. This objective shall be measured by the Union's share in foreign trade with key partner countries and by trade and investments flows to partner countries specifically targeted by actions, programmes and measures under this Regulation. **Special attention shall be paid to supporting small and medium-sized enterprises within the Union and their internationalisation, bearing in mind their role in the Union’s economy.**

**Amendment 10**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 3 – paragraph 4**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(4) In implementing this Regulation, the Union shall aim to ensure coherence and consistency with other areas of its external action, in particular the Development Cooperation Instrument for developing countries, and with other relevant Union’s policies **when formulating policy, strategic planning and programming and implementing measures.**

*Amendment*

(4) In implementing this Regulation and when formulating policy, strategic planning and programming and implementing measures, the Union shall aim to ensure coherence and consistency with other areas of its external action, in particular the Development Cooperation Instrument for developing countries, and with other relevant Union’s policies and programmes.

**Amendment 11**

**Proposal for a regulation**

**Article 8 – paragraph 2 – subparagraph 1**

*Text proposed by the Commission*

2. As referred to in Article 13, paragraph 2 of the ‘Erasmus for All’ Regulation, in order to promote the international dimension of higher education, an indicative amount of EUR 1 812 100 000 from the different external instruments (Development Cooperation Instrument, European Neighbourhood Instrument, European Neighbourhood Instrument,
Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance, Partnership Instrument and the European Development Fund), will be allocated to actions of learning mobility to or from non EU countries and to cooperation and policy dialogue with authorities/institutions/organisations from these countries. The provisions of the ‘Erasmus for All’ Regulation will apply to the use of those funds.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation
Annex – point e a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ea) support for actions aimed at addressing the challenges of the Union's energy security, advancing the Energy Roadmap 2050 agenda and promoting transparency and predictability on global energy markets and the transfer of technology;

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation
Annex – point e b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(eb) the promotion of partnerships, initiatives and actions designed to enhance the competitiveness of the Union's industrial sector and of initiatives capable of strengthening the Union's research and innovation performance as well as the advancement of its digital agenda;
Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation
Annex – point e c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(ce) the promotion of, and support for, initiatives and actions designed to create real functioning markets, and the removal of red tape and trade barriers, with the aim of boosting the Union's competitive advantage;

Amendment

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation
Annex – point f

Text proposed by the Commission

(f) the promotion of initiatives and actions of Union or mutual interest in areas such as climate change, environmental matters including biodiversity, resource efficiency, raw materials, energy, transport, science, research and innovation, employment and social policy, sustainable development, including promotion of decent work, and corporate social responsibility, south-south trade and cooperation, education, culture, tourism, information and communication technologies, health, justice, customs, taxation, financial, statistics and any other matter pertaining to the Union’s specific interests or of mutual interest between the Union and third countries;

Amendment

(f) the promotion of initiatives, actions and projects of Union or mutual interest in areas such as climate change, environmental matters including biodiversity, resource efficiency, raw materials, transport, employment and social policy, sustainable development, including promotion of decent work, and corporate social responsibility, south-south trade and cooperation, education, culture, tourism, health, justice, customs, taxation, financial, statistics and any other matter pertaining to the Union’s specific interests or of mutual interest between the Union and third countries;
# PROCEDURE

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Establishing a Partnership Instrument for cooperation with third countries.</th>
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<td>Opinion by</td>
<td>ITRE</td>
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<td>Date announced in plenary</td>
<td>17.1.2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Niki Tzavela</td>
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<td>Date appointed</td>
<td>7.3.2012</td>
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<td>Discussed in committee</td>
<td>24.4.2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date adopted</td>
<td>19.6.2012</td>
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<td>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</td>
<td>António Fernando Correia de Campos, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Seán Kelly, Werner Langen, Mario Pirillo, Peter Skinner, Lambert van Nistelrooij</td>
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<td>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</td>
<td>Jorgo Chatzimarkakis</td>
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