



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

2010/2088(INI)

13.10.2010

AMENDMENTS

1 - 55

Draft opinion
Marisa Matias
(PE448.818v01-00)

on GDP and beyond - measuring progress in a changing world
(2010/2088(INI))

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PE450.647v01-00

EN

United in diversity

EN

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the OECD Istanbul Declaration on "Measuring and Fostering the progress of societies" adopted on 30.06.2007,

Or.en

Amendment 2
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Citation 1 (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to EU 2020 integrated guidelines for the European economic and employment policies,

Or.en

Amendment 3
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the Commission proposal for a regulation on European environmental accounting (COM(2010)132),

Or.en

Amendment 4
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report2008),

Or.en

Amendment 5
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) global initiative endorsed by G8+5 leaders in June 2007 its published results in 2009 and 2010,

Or.en

Amendment 6
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the EU's Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan (COM(2008) 397),

Or.en

Amendment 7
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the draft public consultation of the Joint Research Centre on framework, methodology, data basis and updating procedures for the decoupling indicators, basket-of-products indicators and waste management indicators of August 16th, 2010,

Or.en

Amendment 8
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Recital A

Draft opinion

Amendment

A. having regard to the urgent need to **launch a** debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

A. having regard to the urgent need to **translate in concrete actions the** debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Or.en

Amendment 9
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Recital A

Draft opinion

Amendment

A. having regard to the urgent need to launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic **policy** and, by

A. having regard to the urgent need to launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic **performance** and,

association, the *wellbeing of societies*,

by association, the *social progress*,

Or.en

Amendment 10

Vicky Ford, Hannu Takkula

Draft opinion

Recital A

Draft opinion

A. having regard to the *urgent* need to launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Amendment

A. having regard to the need to launch a debate on the *benefits and* limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Or.en

Amendment 11

Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion

Recital A

Draft opinion

A. having regard to the *urgent* need to launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Amendment

A. having regard to the need to launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Or.en

Amendment 12

Ioannis A. Tsoukalas

Draft opinion

Recital A

Draft opinion

A. having regard to the urgent need to

Amendment

A. having regard to the urgent need to

launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

launch a debate on the limitations of GDP as a yardstick for measuring and evaluating the success of **social and** economic policy and, by association, the wellbeing of societies,

Or.el

Amendment 13
António Fernando Correia De Campos

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, and it is therefore not a suitable means of measuring social wellbeing,

Amendment

deleted

Or.en

Amendment 14
Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, **and it is therefore not a suitable means of measuring social wellbeing,**

Amendment

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity **naturally** tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, **the GDP nevertheless remains the decisive indicator for eligibility in regional policy,**

Or.en

Amendment 15
Vicky Ford, Hannu Takkula

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas **using** GDP **as** a measure of macroeconomic activity **tends to mean ignoring** the non-market aspects, and it **is** therefore **not a suitable means of measuring** social wellbeing,

Amendment

B. whereas GDP **is** a **useful** measure of macroeconomic activity, **it cannot alone encompass** the non-market aspects, and it therefore **needs to be complemented by other** social **measurements**,

Or.en

Amendment 16
Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, **and it is therefore not a suitable means of** measuring social wellbeing,

Amendment

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity **naturally** tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, **but GDP is nevertheless the key indicator for** measuring social wellbeing,

Or.de

Amendment 17
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, and it is therefore not a suitable means of measuring social wellbeing,

Amendment

B. whereas using GDP as a measure of macroeconomic activity tends to mean ignoring the non-market aspects, and it is therefore not a suitable means of measuring social wellbeing **nor environmental degradation**,

Or.en

Amendment 18
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas there is a need for a concise and actionable set of comparable, robust and valid indicators addressing the key economic, social and environmental dimensions of human well-being, for informing policy-making,

Or.en

Amendment 19
Silvia-Adriana Țicău

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas various studies have shown that Europe's citizens see GDP as an incomplete indicator of the quality of life; thus even where GDP is rising the public perception may be one of a decline in real incomes and standard of living,

Or.ro

Amendment 20
Ioannis A. Tsoukalas

Draft opinion
Recital B a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ba. whereas indicators based on statistical averages are not able to reflect increased social and economic disparities,

Amendment 21
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Recital B b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Bb. whereas a distinction between current and future well-being should be made; whereas it should be underlined that sustainability also needs to be assessed both in its economic and environmental dimensions,

Or.en

Amendment 22
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Recital B c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Bc. whereas to adequately gauge the level of social inclusion, social inequality and income distribution for policy-making should be considered,

Or.en

Amendment 23
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

Amendment

1. Stresses the need to develop indicators which can complement GDP and have as their objective the provision of more exhaustive information to support political

1. Stresses the need to develop indicators which can complement GDP ***in assessing societal progress along the three pillars of economic, social and environmental***

decisions, *notably where they incorporate such factors as the social and environmental dimensions, development, quality of life, public health, research, social equality and the level of employment;*

dimensions and have as their objective the provision of more exhaustive information to support political decisions;

Or.en

Amendment 24

Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *Stresses the need* to develop *indicators which can complement* GDP and have as their objective the provision of more exhaustive information to support political decisions, notably *where they* incorporate such factors as the social and environmental dimensions, development, quality of life, public health, research, social equality and the level of employment;

Amendment

1. *Notes the Commission's proposal* to develop *standards which, in addition to* GDP, *serve to measure regional prosperity and innovation*, and have as their objective the provision of more exhaustive information to support political decisions *at national and regional level*, notably *in the case of issues which* incorporate such factors as the social and environmental dimensions, development, quality of life, public health, research, social equality, *transport links, levels of infrastructure, location costs* and the level of employment *as key aspects for the European model for development*;

Or.de

Amendment 25

Vicky Ford, Hannu Takkula

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Stresses the need to develop indicators which can complement GDP and have as their objective the provision of more

Amendment

1. Stresses the need to develop indicators which can complement GDP and have as their objective the provision of more

exhaustive information to support political decisions, notably where they incorporate such factors as the social and environmental dimensions, development, quality of life, public health, research, social equality and the level of employment;

exhaustive information to support political decisions, notably where they incorporate such factors as the social and environmental dimensions, **macroeconomic imbalances**, development, quality of life, public health, **demographic trends**, research, social equality and the level of employment;

Or.en

Amendment 26
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Welcomes the Communication of the Commission “GDP and beyond, measuring progress in a changing world”(COM(2009)433final) which highlights the need to improve and complement GDP; and supports in particular the work undertaken on the extension of national accounts to environmental and social factors as a basis for development of new aggregated indicators;

Or.en

Amendment 27
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Welcomes the Commission proposals in the Communication GDP and beyond - measuring progress in a changing world;

Or.en

Amendment 28
Silvia-Adriana Țicău

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Calls on the Commission to propose using additional indicators for measuring economic sustainability and social wellbeing, given that concentrating on a single indicator, namely GDP, has resulted in the pursuit of short-term profits and the depletion of natural resources, and has benefited only 10% of people within the richest societies;

Or.ro

Amendment 29
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Considers that achieving and sustaining quality of life comprehends important and consensual factors such as health, education, culture, employment, housing and environmental conditions. Therefore, indicators that measure such factors are also important and should be given more relevance;

Or.en

Amendment 30
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Reminds of the Flagship "Resource Efficient Europe" contained in the EU2020 strategy and points to the need for developing and using appropriate indicators for measuring the attainment of its objectives;

Or.en

Amendment 31
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Points to the need for such data to be available in near real-time, allowing timely political responses;

Or.en

Amendment 32
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Notes that today the GDP is the only indicator to steer the economy, underlines the importance of evidence-based decision making and points to the fact that additional indicators to monitor the input of resources provide an objective tool for the industry to improve resource efficiency; Underlines that improved measurement and integration of social and environmental factors and the use of environmental accounting can contribute to make smart business decisions, lead to

innovation and reduction of costs;

Or.en

Amendment 33

António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1d. Calls on the need to develop indicators that focus more closely on the household level perspective, reflecting income, consumption and wealth as a means to better reflect the citizens' concerns on material well-being;

Or.en

Amendment 34

Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Believes that using indicators ***to*** complement GDP should result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity, ***in particular thanks*** to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative externalities relating to economic activity;

2. Believes that using ***further*** indicators ***which could at most*** complement GDP should ***have been proved to*** result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity; ***stresses that GDP is the only indicator which makes it possible to take proper account of differing socio-economic characteristics at European level, but emphasises the need to take account of environmental and social factors at national and regional level and to determine suitable criteria for that purpose, and that, in this process, consideration could be given*** to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative

externalities relating to economic activity;

Or.de

Amendment 35
Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *Believes* that using indicators to complement GDP should result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity, in particular thanks to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative externalities relating to economic activity;

Amendment

2. *Considers* that ***GDP must remain the main criterion for determining the eligibility for regional policy assistance; however believes that*** using indicators to complement GDP, ***if they are proved to be relevant, as well as leaving room for national authorities to apply at the appropriate level of decision making,*** should result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity, in particular thanks to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative externalities relating to economic activity;

Or.en

Amendment 36
Ioannis A. Tsoukalas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Believes that using indicators to complement GDP should result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity, in particular thanks to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative externalities relating to economic activity;

Amendment

2. Believes that using indicators to complement GDP should result in a better picture of macroeconomic activity, in particular thanks to the inclusion of non-market factors such as work in the home and voluntary work, as well as both positive and negative externalities relating to economic activity ***and the viability of***

activities over time;

Or.el

Amendment 37
Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Emphasises that GDP is the only indicator which can combine environmental and social, economic and transport criteria in order to measure prosperity at all levels in the EU; fears that if more emphasis is placed on other indicators the result will be arbitrary, random decision-making and excessive bureaucracy, which can only serve to make achieving objectives relating to regional equality more difficult, to the detriment of the poorest and most geographically disadvantaged regions in Europe;

Or.de

Amendment 38
Silvia-Adriana Țicău

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Stresses the need to develop additional indicators for measuring medium- and long-term economic and social progress which will take account of climate change, resource efficiency and social inclusion;

Or.ro

Amendment 39
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Calls on the need to develop selected indicators that complement average statistical measurements by reflecting distribution and inequality across social groups;

Or.en

Amendment 40
Silvia-Adriana Țicău

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Considers that indicators such as commercial energy consumption per capita, residential electricity consumption per capita, the percentage of less polluting fuel in total residential energy consumption, or the percentage of the population with access to electricity - as included in the Energy Development Index (EDI) - reflect the development of the economy, the access of the population to electricity, consumer confidence and ability to pay for modern electricity facilities; calls on the Commission to examine the desirability of introducing the above as additional indicators;

Or.ro

Amendment 41
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Calls on the Commission to reinforce efforts for developing a Sustainable Development Scoreboard that assesses from an environmental and economic point of view the preservation and investment in resources required to ensure future well-being (comprising natural resources, physical and human capital);

Or.en

Amendment 42
Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Calls on the Commission, therefore, to retain GDP as the key indicator when planning measures to enhance prosperity and economic performance and to identify regions eligible for support on that basis at European level, in which connection national authorities must continue to be given the leeway to use other social, environmental and infrastructure-related indicators at the appropriate level, with a view to taking account of the specific circumstances of regions and towns and cities and meeting the objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy;

Or.de

Amendment 43
António Fernando Correia De Campos

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Points out that if the Union fulfils its objectives in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, GDP will fall, and therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight. *deleted*

Or.en

Amendment 44
Markus Pieper, Herbert Reul, Lambert van Nistelrooij

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Points out that if the Union fulfils its objectives in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, GDP will fall, and therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight. *deleted*

Or.de

Amendment 45
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. Points out that if the Union fulfils its **3. Deems that long term climate change**

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objectives *in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, GDP will fall*, and therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight.

objectives *fulfilments require an absolute decoupling and therefore an increase of resource efficiency beyond GDP growth and hence an appropriate management of rebound effects*, and therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight; *welcomes in this perspective the proposal made by the Joint Research Centre on decoupling indicators*.

Or.en

Amendment 46
Vicky Ford, Hannu Takkula

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *Points out that if the Union fulfils its objectives in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, GDP will fall*, and therefore believes it is essential that *the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight*.

Amendment

3. *Recognises the Union's objectives in terms of energy efficiency, energy saving and the fight against climate change and how this may have a negative impact on the significance of GDP*, and therefore believes *that whilst economic growth is fundamental to society's wellbeing*, it is essential that *alternative indicators are also given due weight*.

Or.en

Amendment 47
Silvia-Adriana Țicău

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Points out that if the Union fulfils its objectives in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, *GDP will fall*, and

Amendment

3. Points out that if the Union fulfils its objectives in terms of energy efficiency and energy saving and the fight against climate change, *it will thus contribute to*

therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight.

new economic models which will influence the wellbeing of the citizens, and therefore believes it is essential that the new indicators should take account of those aspects and give them their due weight.

Or.ro

Amendment 48
András Gyürk

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Notes that the definition of complex indices requires huge administrative efforts; stresses that although national authorities can apply at the appropriate level of decision-making other indicators which take into account the specific attributes of regions and cities, at EU level GDP must remain the main criterion for determining the eligibility for regional policy assistance;

Or.en

Amendment 49
Lena Kolarska-Bobińska

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Believes, however, that GDP is the only currently measurable tool for Cohesion Policy and its instruments; stresses that in order to adopted a different system, there is a need for a common methodology agreed by the Member States;

Amendment 50
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Supports the European Commission efforts to develop methodologies to assess and communicate progress on the major strands of environmental protection policy;

Or.en

Amendment 51
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Recalls on the global impact of environmental changes and stresses the importance for such indicators to be accepted and comparable outside the EU territory;

Or.en

Amendment 52
António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3c. Supports the Council's recommendation to extend the National Accounts to environmental and social issues by setting internationally accepted

methods;

Or.en

Amendment 53

António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3d. Calls for a more extensive use of such selected indicators in relevant policy documents as a means to better reflect citizens' concerns and match it with coherent policy-making;

Or.en

Amendment 54

António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3e. Notes that continuing research, and investment in the capabilities of Statistical offices is needed in order to improve upon what has been achieved; identify the gaps in available information, and where necessary to construct new indexes;

Or.en

Amendment 55

António Fernando Correia De Campos, Marisa Matias

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3f. Notes that no additional statistical offices or bodies are needed; calls for an extended cooperation between the national offices and Eurostat.

Or.en