

Amendment 1

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on behalf of the ENF Group

Report**A8-0391/2016****Maria João Rodrigues**

A European Pillar of Social Rights
2016/2095(INI)

Motion for a resolution (Rule 170(4) of the Rules of Procedure) replacing non-legislative motion for a resolution A8-0391/2016

European Parliament resolution on a European Pillar of Social Rights

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas, following a mere mention by Jean-Claude Juncker in 2015 of a ‘European Pillar of Social Rights (...) which can serve as a compass for renewed convergence in the euro area¹’, the European Commission issued a communication on 8 March 2016² seeking to ‘pave the way for the European Pillar of Social Rights’, an initiative which has absolutely no legal foundation, however;
- B. whereas the promises of prosperity, growth and employment that accompanied the introduction of the euro have not been kept; whereas, since its creation, the euro area has been the region of the world experiencing the lowest growth rate and its citizens have been the hardest-hit by the crisis;
- C. whereas the pace of improvement of employment figures in Europe is insufficient; whereas, in 2016, unemployment in the euro area reached 10.1 %, 2 points more than outside the euro area³;
- D. whereas the social situation in the EU resulting from policies to date is disastrous, with no less than 122 million citizens, that is 24, 4% of the

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-5614_fr.htm?locale=FR

² COM (2016)0127.

³ <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/7572560/3-29072016-AP-FR.pdf/4e21787f-1a9f-4702-a0a1-2f43a902e2c1>

population of the European Union, at risk of poverty or social exclusion¹ and almost 10% suffering from serious material deprivation or living in families with a very low work intensity²;

- E. whereas with this approach, the EU is seeking to impose a common European social model to replace the social models developed by each Member State according to their needs, in the name of a so-called social Europe; whereas these attempts at harmonisation are in fact proving disastrous;
 - F. whereas the proposal is a propaganda exercise designed to depict the EU as the only solution to problems facing ordinary Europeans; whereas European policies are in fact the cause of those problems;
 - G. whereas the truth regarding European dominance regarding social protection in each Member State is becoming increasingly clear;
 - H. whereas the Social Pillar has been conceived not for the public benefit but as yet another attempt to salvage the euro project and the euro area;
 - I. whereas economic and monetary union and attempts to align the economic, budgetary and employment policies of the Member States in the context of the European semester have clearly proved a failure;
 - J. whereas this mechanism makes it possible to reallocate social budget appropriations to non-social budgets and, in the event of a serious economic crisis, allows the ECP to resort to ‘helicopter money’ in the euro area, seriously jeopardising the economic stability of the Member States;
1. Is concerned by the situation of European citizens, especially in the euro area, who are increasingly at risk of unemployment and poverty as a result of the single currency and harmful EU policies;
 2. Believes that employment and social policy initiatives should come from the Member States alone and that the solution to the problems of citizens cannot be found by imposing additional EU constraints, since the Member States themselves are best placed to meet the expectations of their citizens, including their social and economic expectations, in line with their own established approach to the particular challenges facing them;

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:Population_at-risk-of-poverty_or_social_exclusion_2009%E2%80%9314_YB16-fr.png

² http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Social_inclusion_statistics/fr#Privation_mat.C3.A9rielle_et_privation_mat.C3.A9rielle_greve

3. Take the view that the Member States alone are able to effect the expenditure necessary to guarantee citizens the adoption of socially responsible policies and ensure the continuity of public services necessary to deal with the consequences of the crisis through efforts to create growth and jobs, despite having been put to the test by EU austerity and migration policies;
4. Stresses that in order to achieve economic and social recovery, Member States must be able to invest in economic reinvigoration, support for their SMEs and job creation;
5. Deplores the fact that the European Commission is blaming the Member States for economic and social deterioration in the euro area and the Union as a whole, rather than acknowledging the failure of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), fiscal austerity and its political choices;
6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.

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