



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2010/2088(INI)

28.10.2010

AMENDMENTS

1 - 53

Draft opinion
Nikolaos Chountis
(PE448.956v01-00)

on GDP and beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world
(COM(2009)0433 – 2010/2088(INI))

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PE450.680v03-00

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 June 2007,

Or.en

Amendment 2
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

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

Or.en

Amendment 3
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

- having regard to the report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress (Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report 2008),

Or.en

Amendment 4
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Citation 1 c (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 16 August 2010,

Or.en

Amendment 5
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

Amendment

1. *The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs notes* the Commission's initiative to launch a *fruitful and*** serious ***dialogue*** on improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity and progress.**

1. *Welcomes* the Commission's initiative to launch a serious *action plan*** on improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity and progress ***and on complementing GDP with other indicators that take into account essential dimensions of human welfare and progress such as environmental and social ones;*****

Or.en

Amendment 6
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. ***The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs notes*** the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on ***improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity and progress.***

Amendment

1. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on ***developing other indicators to complement GDP in order to measure economic, social and environmental developments;***

Or.en

Amendment 7
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. ***The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs notes*** the Commission's initiative to launch a ***fruitful and*** serious dialogue on improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic ***activity*** and progress.

Amendment

1. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's ***important*** initiative to launch a serious, ***comprehensive and forward-looking*** dialogue on improving ***and complementing*** gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic ***performance*** and ***social*** progress;

Or.en

Amendment 8
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. ***The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs notes*** the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on ***improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity***

Amendment

1. ***Applauds*** the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on ***establishing indicators in addition to GDP so as better to assess economic activity and progress;***

and progress.

Or.el

Amendment 9
George Sabin Cutaş

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. *The European Parliament's Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs notes* the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity and progress.

Amendment

1. ***Welcomes*** the Commission's initiative to launch a fruitful and serious dialogue on improving gross domestic product (GDP) as an indicator for assessing economic activity and progress;

Or.en

Amendment 10
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

1a. Suggests that instead of aiming at a single 'gross domestic' economic, environmental or social indicator, to aim at a set of relevant indicators, and suggests that this set of indicators is built in such a way that it may later be easily complemented by other indicators;

Amendment

Or.en

Amendment 11
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Stresses the need to develop reliable and harmonised statistics which are attained using similar methodology, common standards, definitions, classifications and accounting rules in each Member State and are therefore readily comparable; requires that data collection and processing is done in conformity with principles of professional independence, impartiality, objectivity, reliability, statistical confidentiality and cost effectiveness;

Or.en

**Amendment 12
Pervenche Berès**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Takes the view that the Strategy 2020 objectives cannot be attained by using GDP alone as a yardstick;

Or.fr

**Amendment 13
Sari Essayah**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 d (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

1d. Agrees that national and EU policies will be judged on whether they are successful in delivering progress in achieving social, economic and environmental goals and improving the well-being of Europeans and stresses that

the new indicators should monitor how these goals included in the EU 2020 strategy and corresponding national strategies are being achieved;

Or.en

Amendment 14
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. The committee believes that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

Amendment

deleted

Or.el

Amendment 15
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. The committee believes that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record

Amendment

*2. Believes that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example it **increases** when resources are invested in countering*

unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

negative developments like increase in social problems, damages to the environment or deteriorating health. It does not measure income that goes to people and it does not take into account for example commuting to areas where GDP is created– and thus it should be complemented by other indicators;

Or.en

Amendment 16
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *The committee believes* that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, *inequalities or environmental disasters* - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed *as a dogma* by our economies, *aimed first and foremost at* maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

Amendment

2. *Believes* that *although* GDP is a solid measure of macro-economic activity, it suffers from many shortcomings *as an indicator for overall societal development* - for example, it does not record *important social factors like* unemployment, underemployment *or inequalities, nor a wide range of vital* environmental sustainability indicators - particularly bearing in mind *that* the development model followed by our economies *tends to be too much focused on* maximum profit *as a sole objective*. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes *far too often* play a secondary role;

Or.en

Amendment 17
Pervenche Berès

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *The committee believes* that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and *environmental changes* play a secondary role.

Amendment

2. *Believes* that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities, *life expectancy, the quality of the education and health systems* or environmental disasters - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. *It stresses that GDP fails to take into account the contribution of public services, that of the whole range of economic and social activities (domestic work, voluntary work, illegal activities ...).* The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and *sustainable development* play a secondary role;

Or.fr

Amendment 18
Jürgen Klute

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. *The committee believes* that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - *for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters* -

Amendment

2. *Believes* that GDP suffers from many shortcomings -particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. *GDP does*

particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

not record unemployment, underemployment, disparities in income distribution or non-market activities as part of economic value creation, environmental disasters or environmental damage resulting from economic activity. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role;

Or.de

Amendment 19
George Sabin Cutaş

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. **The committee believes** that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental *disasters* - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed *as a dogma* by our economies, aimed *first and foremost* at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

Amendment

2. **Believes** that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, *volunteering, education, social* inequalities or environmental *externalities* - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed by our economies, aimed *to a greater extent* at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role;

Or.en

Amendment 20
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. **The committee** believes that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role.

Amendment

2. **Believes** that GDP suffers from many shortcomings - for example, it does not record unemployment, underemployment, inequalities or environmental disasters **and non-market activities** - particularly bearing in mind the development model followed as a dogma by our economies, aimed first and foremost at maximum profit. The use and management of the statistical indicators for an economy reflect the type of economic development followed by each society. In the dominant development model applied until now, the quality of life, well-being of citizens and environmental changes play a secondary role;

Or.en

Amendment 21
Jürgen Klute

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Points out that, since the GDP records every monetary transaction as positive, and that every destruction or catastrophe (war, pollution, natural disasters, etc.) implies contracting companies (for clean-ups, reconstructions or possibly additional health expenses), therefore, destruction itself (in all its forms) is measured as economic gain by the GDP. On the other hand, initiatives such as the Yasuni ITT project in Ecuador, which proposes not to extract petroleum in order to preserve

biodiversity and fight against global warming, is not measured as economic gain by the GDP, in spite of its environmental qualities;

Or.en

Amendment 22
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. Notes that when people are considering their quality of life they appreciate for example safe social environments where it is easy to find comfortable housing and jobs, which are good places to raise children, where for example integration of foreigners is taken good care of, where social services are provided and one may enjoy nature within reachable distances, and regrets that it is hard to get comparable data on these issues;

Or.en

Amendment 23
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. Underlines that the use of social and environmental indicators as a supplement to the GDP measure is fully in line with the aim of generating inclusive and sustainable growth, embedded in the Europe 2020 strategy and other major initiatives;

Amendment 24

Jürgen Klute

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2d. Points to empirical approaches which have been developed in the USA as alternatives to or to complement traditional GDP, namely the 'Index for Sustainable Economic Welfare' (ISEW; Herman Daly and John B. Cobb) and the 'Genuine Progress Indicators' (GPI; Herman Daly, John B. Cobb and Philip Lawn), and the feasibility study on the 'National Welfare Index' (NWI) in Germany (Hans Diefenbacher / Roland Zieschank: Measuring Welfare in Germany. A proposal for a new Welfare index);

Or.de

Amendment 25

Markus Pieper

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2e. Takes the view that the instrument used to measure economic performance, GDP, is the key indicator for measuring regional imbalances at European level;

Or.de

Amendment 26
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2f. Takes the view, in the light of the ever closer degree of interdependence between economic, social and environmental issues, that GDP is the only indicator which makes it possible to take proper account of differing socioeconomic 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;

Or.de

Amendment 27
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2g. Believes that GDP is not sufficient to record the complex socio-economic reality of the regions and regional challenges. The incorporation of new indicators is directly linked to the pursuit of the ambitious objectives of the EU 2020 Strategy;

Or.el

Amendment 28
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 h (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2h. Is alarmed about the constant deterioration of the ecological footprint across the EU;

Or.en

Amendment 29
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 i (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2i. Notes that strong empirical evidences show there is a threshold beyond which GDP growth is progressively decoupled with a parallel improvement in living standards and sustainability;

Or.en

Amendment 30
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. In principle it is a positive step that the Commission is putting forward five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

3. Welcomes the suggested five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues, ***and stresses the great benefits when these indicators are developed in close international cooperation;***

Amendment 31
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. ***In principle*** it ***is*** a positive step that the Commission is putting forward five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

Amendment

3. ***Considers*** it a positive ***and important*** step that the Commission is putting forward five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues;

Or.en

Amendment 32
George Sabin Cutaş

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. ***In principle*** it ***is*** a positive step that the Commission is putting forward five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

Amendment

3. ***Considers*** it a positive step that the Commission is putting forward five actions to better measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues;

Amendment 33
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. *In principle it is a positive step that the Commission is putting forward* five actions *to better* measure progress in a changing world, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues.

Amendment

3. *Welcomes* the five actions *to better* measure progress in a changing world *put forward by the Commission*, i.e. 1. Complementing GDP with environmental and social indicators, 2. Near real-time information for decision-making, 3. More accurate reporting on distribution and inequalities, 4. Developing a European sustainable development scoreboard, and 5. Extending national accounts to environmental and social issues; *insists on having these actions implemented by 2012 in order to serve concrete policy making in a near future; reminds that, beyond the redefinition of progress and well-being and the development of new indicators, the purpose is to use these indicators as new guidelines and benchmarks for assessing policy making and to integrate them properly in order to ensure the definition of comprehensive and sustainable future policies;*

Or.en

Amendment 34
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. 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 35
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Deems in this perspective that relevant indicators defined in the framework of the 'Beyond GDP' process should be included in the scoreboard to be established in order to assess and follow-up broad macroeconomic imbalances by an European Parliament and Council regulation in the framework of enhanced economic policy surveillance and coordination;

Or.en

Amendment 36
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3c. Deems that long term climate change objectives fulfilment requires an absolute decoupling and therefore an increase of

resource efficiency beyond GDP growth and hence an appropriate management of rebound effects; welcomes in this perspective the proposal made by the Joint Research Centre on decoupling indicators;

Or.en

Amendment 37
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. The committee nevertheless believes that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator guiding economic policies requires radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters.

Amendment

deleted

Or.el

Amendment 38
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. The committee nevertheless believes that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator guiding economic policies requires radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters.

Amendment

*4. Notes that **much of** the statistics in the Member States is too old and lags behind more than three years, and that as GDP is complemented by economic, social and environmental indicators, they should be more timely;*

Amendment 39
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *The committee nevertheless* believes that *challenging* GDP's *monopoly* as a statistical indicator guiding *economic policies* requires radical changes to the system for planning and *implementing* economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters.

Amendment

4. *Believes* that *improving and complementing* GDP as a *key* statistical indicator guiding *the policy-making process* requires radical changes to the system for planning, *implementing* and *evaluating* economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters;

Or.en

Amendment 40
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *The committee nevertheless believes* that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator guiding economic policies requires radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters.

Amendment

4. *Believes* nevertheless that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator guiding economic policies requires *excessively* radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters;

Or.de

Amendment 41
Pervenche Berès

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. ***The committee*** nevertheless ***believes*** that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator ***guiding economic policies*** requires radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters.

Amendment

4. ***Believes*** nevertheless that challenging GDP's monopoly as a statistical indicator ***based on the measure of the market output of an economy*** requires radical changes to the system for planning and implementing economic and social policies, in addition to the above actions, so as to take account of both environmental and social parameters;

Or.fr

Amendment 42
Olle Ludvigsson

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4a. Supports fully the establishment of a solid legal framework for the European Environmental Economic Accounts as a positive step in the ‘GDP and beyond’ process. It is of great importance that the European environmental economic accounts, as soon as the system is fully operational, are actively and accurately used in all relevant EU policy making as key input to impact assessments, action plans, legislative proposals and other significant products of the policy process. It is also very important that the system is closely coordinated and evaluated in order for it to pave the way for further developments in this field;

Or.en

Amendment 43
Markus Pieper

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4b. 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 44
Sari Essayah

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4c. Stresses the need to attain long time series of data and indicators so that they can be used for projecting future developments and thus policies to meet future challenges may be formed;

Or.en

Amendment 45
Philippe Lamberts

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4d. Welcomes the willingness of the Commission to work in cooperation with other governmental organisations, civil society and research centre; reminds the importance of citizens involvement in this crucial debate on the redefinition of the measurement of progress and well-being in our society; calls for the European Parliament to be closely associated in future developments on this topic;

Or.en

**Amendment 46
George Sabin Cutaş**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 e (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

4e. Considers that Eurostat should play a major role in the debate on the complementary indicators to the GDP;

Or.en

**Amendment 47
Philippe Lamberts**

**Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 f (new)**

Draft opinion

Amendment

4f. Suggests that the five actions planned by the Commission should result in the definition of a limited set of synthetic indicators to be used as complement for GDP in policy making; recommends that these indicators embody two complementary perspectives on the environment via one monetarised

indicator (such as. Adjusted Net Savings) and one physical one (such as Ecological Footprint, Carbon Footprint or Decoupling Indicators, as suggested by the Joint Research Centre); an assessment of inequalities (such as GINI Index) as well as one broader indicator of social inclusion and human well-being (e.g. Human Poverty Index or Index of Social Health); recommends that Eurostat works in close cooperation with other research centres and organisations that have developed such indicators in order to make them more accurate and implementable;

Or.en

Amendment 48

Sari Essayah

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4g. Stresses the need for a set of indicators gauging non-fiscal external and internal macroeconomic developments which, under certain circumstances, can have a bearing on public finances, and notes that such a set of indicators could include the current account balance, net foreign asset positions, productivity and unit labour costs, the real effective exchange rate, private sector credit and asset prices;

Or.en

Amendment 49

George Sabin Cutaş

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 h (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4h. Regrets the fact that the existing complementary indicators that measure aspects of sustainability and of welfare, such as the degree of democracy, the happiness, the health, the freedom of expression or the quality of the environment, have proven to be subsidiary to the GDP, which remains the most used indicator;

Or.en

Amendment 50

Sari Essayah

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 i (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4i. Recommends that various data bases of public authorities are better used and combined in order to cross-check the indicators and the quality of data, but in a such way that confidentiality of information is kept and good care is taken of personal data protection issues;

Or.en

Amendment 51

George Sabin Cutaş

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 j (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4j. Believes that an approach based not only on economic growth, but also on economic and social sustainability can help better identify the reasons behind the current problems to which the EU is

confronted: unemployment, social and economic disparities, poverty and resource depletion;

Or.en

Amendment 52

Sari Essayah

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 k (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4k. Notes that there is a need to provide free information sources that are easily available to all citizens so that the actual contents of different indicators, how they have been reached, their interconnections and what they actually measure, can be made understandable and their development over time can be followed;

Or.en

Amendment 53

Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 l (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

4l. Notes, however, that questioning GDP as the sole statistical indicator and introducing supplementary indicators will lead to economic policies at national and European level in new directions and introduce new aspects relating to the quality of development and the prosperity of citizens;

Or.el