



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2014/2210(INI)

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COMPROMISE AMENDMENTS A - H

Draft opinion
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(PE546.701v02-00)

Family Businesses in Europe
(2014/2210(INI))

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Amendment A

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 5, 6, 9

Draft opinion

Recital A

Draft opinion

A. whereas family businesses ***range in scope from small firms to corporations*** and represent 60 % of all European companies, providing between 40 % and 50 % of all jobs;

Amendment

A. whereas family businesses represent ***more than*** 60 % of all European companies, providing between 40 % and 50 % of all jobs ***and range in scope from small firms to corporations which means the problems and difficulties they experience differ; whereas the vast majority of family businesses are SMEs, which provide employment for two thirds of people employed in the European Union, and which create 85% of new jobs in Europe; whereas new enterprises create on average two new jobs and expansion of existing businesses creates approximately five new jobs;***

Or. en

Amendment B

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 26

Draft opinion

Recital B

Draft opinion

B. whereas family businesses ***differ in terms of values from non-family corporations as regards*** long-term orientation, ***have a*** special degree of commitment to their local community – rooted in the European tradition of the ‘honourable merchant’ – and ***are*** generally slower ***to close down and put*** workers out of jobs;

Amendment

B. whereas family businesses ***may more often have a*** long-term orientation, ***and make an essential contribution to the economy, bringing a long-term stability, due to their social responsibility, and a high level of responsibility as owners,*** special degree of commitment to their local ***and regional*** community ***and their economy, strong values*** rooted in the European tradition of the ‘honourable merchant’ and generally, ***even if suffering***

greatly in the economic crisis, deal with it more resolutely and therefore tend to be slower in putting workers out of jobs; highlights, in this regard, the initiatives supported by the European Union with the so-called Family Pacts; whereas family businesses make a major contribution to the prevention of rural depopulation, and in many cases provide the only source of employment in the regions of Europe whose development is lagging behind most, particularly in less industrialised regions;

Or. en

Amendment C

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 10, 30

Draft opinion

Recital A a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

a. whereas the majority of family businesses are SMEs; the size of a family company should be one of the central elements to be taken into account in the definition of a family business;

Or. en

Amendment D

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 33, 34, 36

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

Amendment

1. Welcomes the work being undertaken on an EU definition of ‘family business’, and calls for the specificities within Member

1. Observes that more than 90 definitions of ‘family business’ exist in the EU; welcomes the work being undertaken on an

States' *definitions to be taken* into account, *in particular* with regard to guaranteeing social rights, social security, pension entitlements and health and safety at work;

EU definition of 'family business', and calls for *further efforts in establishing an official definition, taking* into account *company law*, the specificities within Member States' with regard to *help to guaranty the* social rights, social security, pension entitlements, *rules on codetermination* and health and safety at work; *a simple, clear and easily applicable and comparable between countries definition would help to better understand the phenomenon and the challenges family businesses face, obtain a clear picture of their contribution to society and allow for specific and effective measures to be introduced.*

Or. en

Amendment E

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 46, 47, 53, 54, 56, 64

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

a. Calls on the Commission to continue work on establishing a common EU definition of 'family business' by conducting an impact assessment of a possible revision of the European SME definition from 2003, by considering the size of a family company as one of the central elements, given the fact that a one-size-fits-all regulatory approach is not capable to sufficiently address the diverse needs of family businesses with regards to taxation, access to finance and by drawing up, together with the Member States, a list of common indicators based on which a family business could be described and which should enable statistics to be produced with respect to the contribution of family businesses to

employment and to better understand ownership and help design better policies facilitating access to market and financing for family businesses; the definition should be simple, clear and easily applicable in all Member States.

Or. en

Amendment F

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 58, 59 , 99,102

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

a. Calls on the competent authorities at the level of Member States to foster entrepreneurship and promote "mini-enterprise" projects in schools, considering the high potential of job creation of family businesses; as family businesses represent the largest pool of entrepreneurial potential and are natural incubators for the future entrepreneurs, there is a growing need for enhancing their innovation and progress; moreover in order to professionalise the management of family firms it is crucial to promote entrepreneurship education for both start-ups and existing family firms, incentivising innovation and progress especially at managerial level; including training in the field of human resources, career planning and management skills, which will contribute to attracting and retaining skilled workforce.

Or. en

Amendment G

Compromise amendment replacing Amendments 62, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes with concern that the financial crisis and subsequent recession have ***dealt a heavy blow to*** European SMEs, many of which are family businesses, and highlights the importance of a favourable regulatory framework ***to support healthy restructuring and thus job retention***;

Amendment

3. Notes with concern that the financial crisis and subsequent recession have ***affected*** European ***micro-enterprises and SMEs in particular***, many of which are family businesses, and highlights the importance of ***the EU assistance to relaunch economic growth by supporting creation of high-quality jobs and the importance of fostering*** a favourable regulatory framework ***as regards especially access to finance, taxation, inclusive social security protection of all actors in SME structures; stresses that a well-targeted support towards healthy restructuring, could have major positive effects on job retention and additionally highlights the importance of the facilitating of the administrative procedures for family businesses, including the utilization of one-stop-shop solutions; stresses the local job creation potential for SMEs of new and emerging sectors such as the circular economy; stresses that as passing the business on from one generation to the next is the main challenge family businesses is facing, it is important that Member States try to improve the legal framework for the transfer of family businesses and facilitate financing for these transfers thereby preventing cash-flow problems and distress sales and ensuring family businesses survive; stresses at the same time that the legal framework must not permit any restriction of the social rights of employees or their rights.***

Or. en

Amendment H

Compromise amendment replacing Amendment 85

Draft opinion

Paragraph 4 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

a. Draws the Commission's attention to the fact that the majority of family businesses are SMEs and that applying the 'think small first' principle is therefore essential in order to better adapt EU legislation to the realities and needs of these businesses, and enable them to benefit from funding programmes and a reduction in red tape.

Or. en