



2016/2306(INI)

16.12.2016

AMENDMENTS

1 - 51

Draft opinion

Krzysztof Hetman

(PE595.492v01-00)

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth
Survey 2017
(2016/2306(INI))

AM_Com_NonLegOpinion

Amendment 1
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 *as an important part of the European investment process based on a strategy of investment, structural reforms and responsible public finances;*

Amendment

1. ***Takes note of*** the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 as an important part of the European investment process based on a strategy of investment, *structural reforms and responsible public finances;*

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 as an important part of the European investment process based on a strategy of investment *and job creation, aiming to further promote higher growth levels and strengthen European recovery and upward convergence;*

Or. en

Amendment 3
Matthijs van Miltenburg

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

Draft opinion

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 as an important part of the European *investment* process based on a strategy of investment, structural reforms and responsible public finances;

Amendment

1. Welcomes the Commission's Annual Growth Survey 2017 as an important part of the European *recovery* process based on a strategy of investment, structural reforms and responsible public finances;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1a. Takes note of the negative impact of austerity policies, structural reforms and liberalization, as the cuts suffered by the regions have severely curtailed their spending capacity and delivery of public services;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1b. Notes that the current governance system leaves the Member States and the local governments without the necessary tools to fight the crisis and the unemployment and to sustain the recovery and a sustainable development;

Or. en

Amendment 6
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1c. Denounces the asymmetric applications of the European Semester mechanism between countries in deficit and surplus countries, especially since the adjustment weight is discharged entirely on the most-in-need countries;

Or. en

Amendment 7
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1d. Underlines the accumulation of excessive trade surpluses that are blocking the recovery and any prospect of sustainable development in the South countries;

Or. en

Amendment 8
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1e. Underlines that the current balance rules paralyze the essential public

investment and minimize the fiscal space in the Member States which would most need to increase public spending and where the tax multiplier is increased, so that fiscal expansion would have a greater impact in terms of growing demand and employment;

Or. en

Amendment 9
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 f (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

If. Underlines that the flexibility built into the Stability and Growth Pact takes into account, even if it is not enough, the budgetary impact of the exceptional inflow of refugees and of exceptional securities need, but that may be necessary to apply it also to exceptional events such as floods and earthquakes, as recently stated in the Parliament's resolution on the situation in Italy after the earthquakes;

Or. en

Amendment 10
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 g (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

Ig. Complains that there is still evidence of macroeconomic imbalances and limited convergences, notably within the euro area;

Amendment 11

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 1 h (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

1h. Believes that the Capital Markets Union cannot provide the conditions for equal access to finance for all firms across Member States, because micro enterprises and relatively young companies will not have the requirements to access the European Venture Capital Funds and the European Social Entrepreneurship Funds;

Or. en

Amendment 12

Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

Amendment

2. Is concerned about ***patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery***; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting ***the structural reforms*** and investment;

2. Is concerned about ***the substantial investment gap in EU, which significantly jeopardises the EU's longer-term growth potential***; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting ***job creation*** and investment ***with a high social impact***;

Or. en

Amendment 13
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. ***Is concerned about*** patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment;

Amendment

2. ***Takes note of*** patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment;

Or. en

Amendment 14
Matthijs van Miltenburg

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting ***the*** structural reforms and ***investment***;

Amendment

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; ***calls therefore on euro-area members for strong individual commitments to implement structural reforms and to reduce their debt-to-GDP ratio and their budget deficit to foster growth and create jobs***; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting ***these*** structural reforms and ***investments***;

Or. en

Amendment 15
Andrew Lewer, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment;

Amendment

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; ***believes that it should remain the prerogative of Member States on whether to implement CSRs and the best way in which this should be done;*** highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment;

Or. en

Amendment 16
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2

Draft opinion

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment;

Amendment

2. Is concerned about patchy implementation of country-specific recommendations (CSRs) in the European economic recovery; highlights the role of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders, as well as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds) themselves, in supporting the structural reforms and investment; ***asks the Commission to consider the proposal of the European Committee of the Regions of a Code of conduct to involve the local and regional authorities in the European Semester;***

Amendment 17

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Recommends to introduce also more complex indicators such as the Social Progress Index to check the progress in all the EU regions; unemployment, GDP, productivity growth rates are not sufficient to track the real situation;

Or. en

Amendment 18

Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2a. Calls for European Semester Policies which aim at boosting domestic demand in order to make European economy more resilient in a framework of worsening global outlook and slowdown in global demand;

Or. en

Amendment 19

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2b. *Regrets the high level of inequality, pointed out also by the Commission, that reduces the output of the economy and the potential for the sustainable growth; notes that the risk of poverty and social exclusion remain very high in several regions;*

Or. en

Amendment 20
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2c. *Notes with concern that in many Member States, the working population and the labour force continue to shrink, notably as a result of low birth rates, ageing, emigration and health-related exits from the labour market; notes also that the country specific recommendations have not been adequate to contrast the phenomenon;*

Or. en

Amendment 21
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 2 d (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2d. *Underlines that the EU policies are not adequate to assess the nature of the jobs created and, as recently written by Commissioners Crețu and Thyssen, it*

cannot specify whether the jobs created, as reported by the Member States, include also precarious and temporary jobs;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 2 e (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

2e. *Notes that the proposed broad coverage of supplementary pensions as a key role in retirement income provision might create more inequalities;*

Or. en

Amendment 23

Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

Amendment

3. *Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;*

3. *Emphasises that EFSI should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;*

Amendment 24**Andrew Lewer, Branislav Škripek****Draft opinion****Paragraph 3***Draft opinion*

3. Recognises the *potential* of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; *is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding)*; welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Amendment

3. Recognises the *objective* of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; *calls on the EIB and the Commission to ensure that the distribution of the Funds is based on prudent financial analysis with applications assessed fairly on their merit*; welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 25**Andrea Cozzolino****Draft opinion****Paragraph 3***Draft opinion*

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, *in boosting growth and employment*; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund *between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding)*; *welcomes* the Commission's proposal to

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects *with the aim of strengthening growth potential based on quality jobs and productivity*; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund *among different zones*; *notes* the Commission's

strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

proposal to strengthen synergies ***and complementarities*** between the EFSI and the ESI Funds ***in order to mitigate divergence in the Single Market by enabling all regions to develop their potential***; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union, ***thus, putting the EU closer to its citizens***;

Or. en

Amendment 26

Marc Joulaud

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; ***is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding)***; welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; ***underlines that the Commission has proposed providing more targeted local technical assistance in order to improve the geographical coverage of the EFSI across the EU***; welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 27

Bronis Ropé

Draft opinion

Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); **welcomes** the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, **however**, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding) **and calls on the Commission to propose measures aiming at better balancing this discrepancy; takes note of** the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; **is concerned that the highest risk-taking tranche of the investment shall be covered by ESI Funds instead of EFSI when the instruments are combined;** emphasises, **therefore**, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 28
Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); **shares the view of the Commission that the Advisory Hub will be enhanced to be able to work more locally and to enhance its cooperation with National Promotional**

of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Banks and to be an useful tool to help project promoters develop better projects, in particular for regions or sectors where additional outreach and technical capacity are needed; welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union; ***asks the Commission to promote a broader use of the EFSI by the local and regional authorities across the EU, in particular through investment platforms; to this aim, invites the Commission to help by spreading information and to address the current lack of administrative and institutional capacity at sub-national level;***

Or. en

Amendment 29
Matthijs van Miltenburg

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that ***there is a lack of evidence about the impact of EFSI which creates the potential for exaggeration its contribution to growth and jobs; from this perspective, underlines that*** this should by no means

undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 30
Fernando Ruas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that *this* should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned, however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that ***EFSI must be additional to the ESI Funds and*** should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

Or. en

Amendment 31
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned,

Amendment

3. Recognises the potential of the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which is designed to support high-risk investment projects, in boosting growth and employment; is concerned,

however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union;

however, about the enormous imbalance in use of the Fund between the EU15 (91% of funding) and the EU13 (9% of funding); welcomes the Commission's proposal to strengthen synergies between the EFSI and the ESI Funds; emphasises, however, that this should by no means undermine the role of Cohesion Policy as the main investment policy of the European Union; ***calls on the Commission and the member states to use the EFSI and the ESI Funds to their full potential and in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy in order to reduce the investment gap in the EU;***

Or. en

Amendment 32
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Regrets that the Commission has proposed to extend the EFSI; underlines that the EFSI could not be considered as a successful instrument to realise the third pillar of the Commission to sustain the growth; there is indeed a huge imbalance in use of the Fund between the strongest economies and the poorest countries in EU; moreover, the selection of projects and the details of amounts given by EFSI lack of transparency;

Or. en

Amendment 33
Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3a. Welcomes the European Commission proposal “Towards a Positive Fiscal Stance for the Euro Area” as a milestone for future European and national economic fiscal policies in order to ensure macroeconomic stability, incentivising those countries with fiscal room for manoeuvre to make use of it;

Or. en

Amendment 34
Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

3b. Welcomes the positive fiscal stance, which is in line with the Five President’s proposal about the creation of a central macroeconomic stabilisation function in order to complement automatic stabilisers at the national level, in case of significant macroeconomic shocks;

Or. en

Amendment 35
Krzysztof Hetman

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

4. Shares the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to

4. Underlines that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, ***such as the activities of the Taskforce for Better***

step up their *efforts* to implement the necessary reforms *aimed at* removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Implementation, Member States need to step up their *actions* to implement the necessary reforms *and all other measures which support this implementation, including institutional capacity building, with the aim of* removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Or. en

Amendment 36
Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. *Shares* the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary reforms aimed at removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Amendment

4. *Notes* the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary reforms aimed at removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy; ***stresses the importance of ex-ante conditionalities in order to improve the capacity building in Members States with the scope of achieving the EU's 2020 targets; stresses the need to intensify communication of results for European citizens to make the European added value more visible;***

Or. en

Amendment 37
Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Shares the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary reforms aimed at removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Amendment

4. Shares the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary reforms aimed at removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy; ***underlines nevertheless the need for coordination between the European Union's priorities, national needs, regional needs and local needs;***

Or. en

Amendment 38
Matthijs van Miltenburg

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

4. Shares the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary reforms aimed at removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Amendment

4. Shares the view of the Commission that, in the context of the European Semester and efforts to simplify the Cohesion Policy, Member States need to step up their efforts to implement the necessary ***structural*** reforms aimed at ***boosting growth and jobs by*** removing obstacles encountered by beneficiaries of the Cohesion Policy;

Or. en

Amendment 39
Andrea Cozzolino

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4 a (new)

4a. *Acknowledges the Commission's proposal to extend the EFSI (proposal for an "EFSI 2.0") and to increase its amount by 2022 and underlines that ESI Funds should remain in the same regional areas, while at the same time improving geographical and sectorial coverage; notes that a swift adoption of this proposal is essential;*

Or. en

Amendment 40

Andrew Lewer, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Reiterates the need to accelerate the implementation of the ESI Funds during the 2014-2020 financial programming period; believes that tailor-made *measures* should follow the analysis of the implementation deficiencies and be included in the CSR formulation process;

Amendment

5. Reiterates the need to accelerate the implementation of the ESI Funds during the 2014-2020 financial programming period; ***while acknowledging that Member States should remain responsible for the designation of programmes***, believes that tailor-made *recommendations* should follow the analysis of the implementation deficiencies and be included in the CSR formulation process;

Or. en

Amendment 41

Bronis Ropé

Draft opinion

Paragraph 5

Draft opinion

5. Reiterates the need to accelerate the

Amendment

5. Reiterates the need to accelerate the

implementation of the ESI Funds during the 2014-2020 financial programming period; believes that tailor-made measures should follow the analysis of the implementation deficiencies and be included in the CSR formulation process;

implementation of the ESI Funds during the 2014-2020 financial programming period; believes that tailor-made measures should follow the analysis of the implementation deficiencies and be included in the CSR formulation process; ***calls on the Commission to engage into close dialogue with Member States to define such measures;***

Or. en

Amendment 42
Krzysztof Hetman

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

5a. Underlines that in order to better respond to economic challenges and boost growth, a higher level of flexibility in implementation has to be further provided for the Member States to make use of the investment clauses; shares in this context the view of the European Court of Auditors that public procurement, while being a perennial problem, needs to be addressed also at the Commission level, which should act as an advocate for improvements in this field;

Or. en

Amendment 43
Matthijs van Miltenburg

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

Amendment

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of

6. Takes note of the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of

the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been *abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous.*

the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been *held in abeyance; is of the opinion that euro-area members should comply with the rules of the Stability and Growth Pact and that an infringement of the SGP should have political or legal consequences; recalls in this respect the role of the Commission as guardian of the treaties.*

Or. en

Amendment 44

Andrew Lewer, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. ***Welcomes the fact*** that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been *abandoned* in the face of *constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous.*

Amendment

6. ***Recognises*** that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been *held in abeyance* in the face of criticism from Parliament *and an assessment from the Commission which claims both nations are making progress towards their deficit reduction targets; notes that this decision can be reversed if Spain and Portugal do not continue to make progress towards the requirements set out in the Council decision of 8 August 2016;*

Or. en

Amendment 45

Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of

Amendment

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of

the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous.

the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous; *shares the Commission's view that the euro area needs to adopt a more collective approach which takes into account the differences between Member states: the ones with a fiscal space which have a duty to support domestic demand and quality investments and the ones that need further fiscal adjustments that must be broadly compliant with the requirements of the Stability and Growth Pact.*

Or. en

Amendment 46
Fernando Ruas

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous.

Amendment

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous; *expects from the European Commission, in light of the review of article 23 of Regulation 1303/2013 foreseen for 2017, a report and a legislative proposal that takes into account the opinion of the European Parliament expressed during the structured dialogue of 2016.*

Or. en

Amendment 47
Bronis Ropé

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6

Draft opinion

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous.

Amendment

6. Welcomes the fact that the Commission's proposal to suspend parts of the ESI Funds for Spain and Portugal has been abandoned in the face of constructive criticism from Parliament which has shown conclusively that this proposal is superfluous; ***calls on the Commission to undertake a review of Article 23 CPR as set out in paragraph 17 of that Article taking into account the opinion expressed in the structured dialogue.***

Or. en

Amendment 48
Rosa D'Amato

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. Welcomes the Commission's declaration on the importance of investment in knowledge, innovation, education and ICT as drivers of growth; advocates the adoption of policies that will enable basic access to connectivity for every European citizen.

Or. en

Amendment 49
Andrew Lewer, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 a (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6a. *Believes that the Investment Plan for Europe will only deliver on its targets through improved engagement with SMEs, local authorities and other grass roots actors; calls on the EIB and Commission to ensure that these stakeholders can successfully design and lead applications for project financing, have appropriate support, and are not exposed to unnecessary regulatory burdens; in particular notes the positive impact that Community-led Local Development can have on ensuring that the voices of local actors are heard;*

Or. en

Amendment 50

Andrew Lewer, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion

Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6b. *Welcomes support for SMEs through EFSI's SME Window and the SME Initiative; is encouraged by the ongoing recovery of the SME sector since the 2008 financial crisis; calls on the Commission to cooperate with Member States to ensure that problem areas are addressed including the slow increases in the numbers employed by SMEs and the stagnant growth within the manufacturing, construction and retail sectors;*

Or. en

Amendment 51

Andrew Lewer, Tomasz Piotr Poręba, Branislav Škripek

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 c (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6c. Believes that access to finance remains the primary challenge for growing SMEs; notes that the commercial banking sector, primarily regulated by Member States, remains the primary source of financing for most SMEs; notes therefore that it will be Member States who remain the primary actors in the recovery of the SME sector and that the Commission should ensure that its actions play an effective supporting role.

Or. en