



Plenary sitting

A8-0273/2015

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REPORT

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, in accordance with point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (application EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel, from Germany)
(COM(2015)0342 – C8-0249/2015 – 2015/2208(BUD))

Committee on Budgets

Rapporteur: Jens Geier

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3
ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL	8
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	10
ANNEX: LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS	12
ANNEX: LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT	15
RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE	16

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

**on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, in accordance with point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management (application EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel, from Germany)
(COM(2015)0342 – C8-0249/2015 – 2015/2208(BUD))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2015)0342 – C8-0249/2015),
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006¹ (EGF Regulation),
 - having regard to Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020², and in particular Article 12 thereof,
 - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³ (IIA of 2 December 2013), and in particular point 13 thereof,
 - having regard to the trilogue procedure provided for in point 13 of the IIA of 2 December 2013,
 - having regard to the letter of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,
 - having regard to the letter of the Committee on Regional Development,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Budgets (A8-0273/2015),
- A. whereas the Union has set up legislative and budgetary instruments to provide additional support to workers who are suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns or of the global financial and economic crisis and to assist their reintegration into the labour market;
- B. whereas the Union's financial assistance to workers made redundant should be dynamic and made available as quickly and efficiently as possible, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission adopted during the conciliation meeting on 17 July 2008, and having due regard to the IIA of 2 December

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

² OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

³ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

2013 in respect of the adoption of decisions to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF);

- C. whereas the adoption of the EGF Regulation reflects the agreement reached between the Parliament and the Council to reintroduce the crisis mobilisation criterion, to increase the Union financial contribution to 60 % of the total estimated cost of proposed measures, to increase efficiency for the treatment of EGF applications in the Commission and by the Parliament and the Council by shortening the time for assessment and approval, to widen eligible actions and beneficiaries by introducing self-employed persons and young people and to finance incentives for setting up own businesses;
- D. whereas Germany submitted application EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel for a financial contribution from the EGF following 2 881 redundancies in Adam Opel AG, operating in the NACE Rev. 2 division 29 ('Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers')¹ and 1 supplier;
- E. whereas the application fulfils the eligibility criteria set down by the EGF Regulation;
1. Agrees with the Commission that the conditions set out in Article 4(1)(a) of the EGF Regulation are met and that, therefore, Germany is entitled to a financial contribution of EUR 6 958 623 under that Regulation;
 2. Notes that the German authorities submitted the application for a financial contribution from the EGF on 26 February 2015, and that its assessment was finalised by the Commission on 14 July 2015 and notified to the European Parliament on 1 September 2015; welcomes the speedy evaluation period of less than five months;
 3. Notes that in Western Europe car sales have dropped dramatically and have reached a 20-year record low² and highlights that the number of cars sold in Europe is the lowest since 1997; concludes that those events are directly linked to the global financial and economic crisis addressed in Regulation (EC) No 546/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council³; further underlines that manufacturers of small and medium-sized vehicles of the medium-price segment have been hit particularly hard and that Adam Opel AG, being one of the major players in the medium-price segment of small and medium-sized vehicles, has thus been hit particularly hard by the crisis, while sales of economy as well as of premium or luxury vehicles were not so affected by the crisis;
 4. Notes that the number of newly registered cars in the EU and EFTA Member States saw a drop of 25 % between 2007 and 2013 (from more than 16 million newly registered cars down to 12 million, according to the European Automobile Manufacturers Association); highlights in this respect that sales of Opel/Vauxhall-branded cars in Europe dropped

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1893/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 establishing the statistical classification of economic activities NACE Revision 2 and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3037/90 as well as certain EC regulations on specific statistical domains (OJ L 393, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

² European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), The Automobile Industry Pocket Guide 2014-2015, p. 57f.

³ Regulation (EC) No 546/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 amending Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (OJ L 167, 29.6.2009, p. 26).

dramatically and fell by 39 % between 2007 and 2013;

5. Notes furthermore that Adam Opel AG was disadvantaged by the owning enterprise General Motors, which allowed Opel to sell only within Europe, thus excluding Opel from emerging markets on other continents; is of the opinion that austerity policies imposed in European countries contributed to the dramatic drop in sales by Opel/Vauxhall;
6. Notes that these redundancies will have a significant adverse impact on the local economy in Bochum; recalls that Bochum is a city in the Ruhr area, a highly urbanised industrial area in the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia, which like other traditional coal-mining and steel producing regions has been facing tremendous structural challenges since the 1960s; highlights that the unemployment rate in the Ruhr area is already far above the German average;
7. Recalls that Bochum has already been supported by the EGF after Nokia stopped the production of cell phones, with a loss of more than 1.300 jobs; notes that Outokumpu intends to stop the production of stainless steel in Bochum at the end of 2015, which will lead to a further deindustrialisation of the city and a worsening of the local and regional labour situation;
8. Notes that, to-date, the NACE Revision 2 Division 29 sector (Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers) has been the subject of 21 EGF applications, 11 of which were based on trade related globalisation and 10 on the global financial and economic crisis; reminds in this context of the EGF application EGF/2010/031/General Motors Belgium, which was a consequence of Opel's closure of the production facility in Antwerp, Belgium;
9. Welcomes the fact that, in order to provide workers with speedy assistance, the German authorities decided to initiate the implementation of the personalised services to the affected workers on 1 January 2015, well ahead of the decision and even the application on the granting the EGF support for the proposed coordinated package;
10. Notes that dismissed workers can benefit from a range of measures aiming to re-integrate them into the labour market; considers that the estimated number of participants in business start-up advisory service is low, at only 25 estimated beneficiaries;
11. Welcomes that the management and control of this application will be administered by the same bodies which administer the European Social Fund within the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and which also administered the previous EGF contributions;
12. Notes that Germany is planning the following measures for the redundant workers covered by this application: vocational training measures (Qualifizierungen), career guidance (Berufsorientierung), peer groups / workshops, business start-up advisory service (Existenzgründerberatung), job search (Stellenakquise) / job fairs (Jobmessen),

- follow-up mentoring and advisory services (Nachbetreuung und -beratung) and training allowances (Transferkurzarbeitergeld);
13. Notes that the coordinated package of personalised services has been drawn up in consultation with the social partners through the creation of transfer companies;
 14. Notes that the authorities plan to utilise the maximum allowed 35% of total costs for the coordinated package of personalised services on allowances and incentives in form of training allowance (Transferkurzarbeitergeld) constituting 60% or 67% of the worker previous net income – depending on the household situation of the beneficiary;
 15. Emphasises that funding provided for training allowance (in the present case Transferkurzarbeitergeld) must not replace the legal obligation of the Member State or the former employer; calls on both the Commission and the Member State to provide clear and coherent information to specify to what extent Transferkurzarbeitergeld constitutes a legal obligation once the Transfergesellschaft has been set up; requests coherence in both funding practice and information to the Parliament; expects, therefore, the Commission to provide thorough and coherent analysis and details on the elements that go beyond the legal obligations of the Member States; reiterates its position that EGF funding should be used for ‘Transferkurzarbeitergeld’ in order to enable the transfer company to go beyond what it could normally do for the workers, by providing more personalised and in-depth measures than would be possible without EGF support; emphasises that Parliament will continue to monitor that the EGF is not used to replace obligations by a Member State or a company;
 16. Calls on the Commission to establish a consistent approach in case of applications including the “Transferkurzarbeitergeld” measure, by consistently defining it in each application and thoroughly checking and citing evidence that the specific measure is indeed eligible for EGF funding as laid down in Article 7 of the EGF Regulation and does not in any way substitute passive social protection measures and that the risk of double financing is excluded;
 17. Notes that the social partners agreed on the creation of three transfer companies in order to carry out the measures for the dismissed workers, which is in line with the practice in Germany; welcomes that the workers dismissed in the supplier company (Johnson Controls Objekt Bochum GmbHCo. KG) will also be able to participate in the measures carried out by the transfer companies;
 18. Recalls the importance of improving the employability of all workers by means of adapted training and the recognition of skills and competences gained throughout a worker's professional career; expects the training on offer in the coordinated package to be adapted not only to the needs of the dismissed workers but also to the actual business environment;
 19. Reminds that in line with Article 7 of the EGF Regulation, the design of the coordinated package of personalised services should anticipate future labour market perspectives and required skills and should be compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy;
 20. Notes that the information provided on the coordinated package of personalised services

to be funded from the EGF includes information on complementarity with actions funded by the Structural Funds; stresses that the German authorities confirm that the eligible actions do not receive assistance from other Union financial instruments; reiterates its call on the Commission to present a comparative evaluation of those data in its annual reports in order to ensure full respect for the existing regulations and that no duplication of Union-funded services can occur;

21. Appreciates the improved procedure put in place by the Commission, following the Parliament's request for the accelerated release of grants; notes the time pressure that the new timetable implies and the potential impact on the effectiveness of case instruction;
22. Approves the decision annexed to this resolution;
23. Instructs its President to sign the decision with the President of the Council and arrange for its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*;
24. Instructs its President to forward this resolution, including its annex, to the Council and the Commission.

ANNEX: DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (application from Germany - EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006¹, and in particular Article 15(4) thereof,

Having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management², and in particular point 13 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) aims to provide support for workers made redundant and self-employed persons whose activity has ceased as a result of major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, as a result of a continuation of the global financial and economic crisis, or as a result of a new global financial and economic crisis, and to assist them with their reintegration into the labour market.
- (2) The EGF is not to exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices), as laid down in Article 12 of Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013³.
- (3) On 26 February 2015, Germany submitted an application EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel for a financial contribution from the EGF, following redundancies in Adam Opel AG and one supplier in Germany. It was supplemented by additional information in accordance with Article 8(3) of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013. That application complies with the requirements for determining a financial contribution from the EGF in accordance with Article 13 of that Regulation.
- (4) The EGF should, therefore, be mobilised in order to provide a financial contribution of EUR 6 958 623 in respect of the application submitted by Germany.

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 855.

² OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

³ Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020 (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884).

- (5) In order to minimise the time taken to mobilise the EGF, this decision should apply from the date of its adoption,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

For the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015, the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund shall be mobilised to provide the sum of EUR 6 958 623 in commitment and payment appropriations.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. It shall apply from [*the date of its adoption*]*.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

* Date to be inserted by the Parliament before the publication in OJ.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Background

The European Globalisation Adjustment Fund has been created in order to provide additional assistance to workers suffering from the consequences of major structural changes in world trade patterns.

According to the provisions of Article 12 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020¹ and of Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013², the Fund may not exceed a maximum annual amount of EUR 150 million (2011 prices). The appropriate amounts are entered into the general budget of the Union as a provision.

As concerns the procedure, according to point 13 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management³, in order to activate the Fund the Commission, in case of a positive assessment of an application, presents to the budgetary authority a proposal for mobilisation of the Fund and, at the same time, a corresponding request for transfer. In the event of disagreement, a trilogue shall be initiated.

II. The Adam Opel application and the Commission's proposal

On 14 July 2015, the Commission adopted a proposal for a decision on the mobilisation of the EGF in favour of Germany to support the reintegration in the labour market of workers made redundant in Adam Opel AG, operating in the economic sector classified under NACE Rev. 2 division 29 ('Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers') and 1 supplier.

This is the thirteenth application to be examined under the 2015 budget and refers to the mobilisation of a total amount of EUR 6 958 623 from the EGF for Germany. It concerns 2 692 out of 2 881 workers made redundant in Adam Opel and 1 supplier. The application was sent to the Commission on 26 February 2015 and supplemented by additional information up to 23 April 2015. The Commission has concluded, in accordance with all applicable provisions of the EGF Regulation, that the application meets the conditions for a financial contribution from the EGF.

The German authorities state that the event giving rise to the complete shutdown of Adam Opel AG's production plant in Bochum. They link this closing down to the global financial and economic crisis by explaining that the number of newly registered cars in the EU and EFTA Member States saw a 25 % drop between 2007 and 2013, with manufacturers of small and medium-sized vehicles of the medium-price segment having been hit particularly hard.

The personalised services which are to be provided to workers made redundant consist of the following measures: Vocational training measures (Qualifizierungen), Career Guidance (Berufsorientierung), Peer groups / workshops, Business start-up advisory service

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 884.

² OJ L 347, 30.12.2013, p. 855.

³ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

(Existenzgründerberatung), Job Search (Stellenakquise) / job fairs (Jobmessen), Follow-up mentoring and advisory services (Nachbetreuung und -beratung), Training allowance (Transferkurzarbeitergeld).

According to the Commission, the described measures constitute active labour market measures within the eligible actions set out in Article 7 of the EGF Regulation. These actions do not substitute passive social protection measures.

- The German authorities have provided all necessary assurances regarding the following: the principles of equality of treatment and non-discrimination will be respected in the access to the proposed actions and their implementation,
- the requirements laid down in national and EU legislation concerning collective redundancies have been complied with,
- the dismissing enterprises which have continued their activities after the lay-offs have complied with their legal obligations governing the redundancies and provided for their workers accordingly,
- the proposed actions will not receive financial support from other Union funds or financial instruments and any double financing will be prevented,
- the proposed actions will be complementary with actions funded by the Structural Funds,
- the financial contribution from the EGF will comply with the procedural and material Union rules on State aid.

Germany has notified the Commission that the source of national pre-financing or co-funding are the Federal budget and Bundesagentur für Arbeit (Federal Public Employment Service).

III. Procedure

In order to mobilise the Fund, the Commission has submitted to the Budget Authority a transfer request for a global amount of EUR 6 958 623 from the EGF reserve (40 02 43) to the EGF budget line (04 04 01).

This is the 13 transfer proposal for the mobilisation of the Fund transmitted to the Budgetary Authority to date during 2015.

The trilogue procedure shall be initiated in the event of disagreement, as provided for in Article 15(4) of the EGF Regulation.

According to an internal agreement, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee should be associated to the process, in order to provide constructive support and contribution to the assessment of the applications from the Fund.

ANNEX: LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

ZP/jb D(2015)38811

M. Jean Arthuis
Chair of the Committee on Budgets
ASP 09G205

Subject: Opinion on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for the case EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel from Germany (COM(2015)342)

Dear Chair,

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) as well as its Working Group on the EGF examined the mobilisation of the EGF for the case EGF/2015/002 DE/Adam Opel and adopted the following opinion.

The EMPL committee and the Working Group on the EGF are in favour of the mobilisation of the Fund concerning this request. In this respect, the EMPL committee presents some remarks without, however, putting into question the transfer of the payments.

The deliberations of the EMPL committee are based on the following considerations:

- A) Whereas this application is based on Article 4(1)(a) of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund Regulation (EC) No 1309/2013 and relates to 2881 workers dismissed in Adam Opel AG and one supplier which operated in the economic sector classified under NACE Rev. 2 division 29 ('Manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers'); whereas the redundancies made by the enterprises concerned are located in the NUTS level 2 region of Arnsberg within the reference period between 15 August 2014 and 15 December 2014;
- B) Whereas in order to establish link between the redundancies and major structural changes in world trade patterns due to globalisation, Germany argues that the number of cars sold in Europe dropped dramatically due to the global financial and economic crisis and reached a 20-year record low;
- C) Whereas as a consequence of the sharp decline of car sales, Adam Opel AG faced the problem of overcapacities;
- D) Whereas the vast majority (95.95%) of the workers targeted by the measures are men and 4.05% are women; whereas 69.76% of the workers are between 30 and 54 years old, and 26.23% between 55 and 64 years old;

Therefore, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to integrate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution concerning the German application:

1. Agrees with the Commission that the intervention criteria set out in Article 4(1)(a) of the Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 are met and that, therefore, Germany is entitled to a financial contribution under this Regulation;
2. Notes that the social partners agreed on the creation of three transfer companies in order to carry out the measures for the dismissed workers, which is in line with the practice in Germany; welcomes that the workers dismissed in the supplier company (Johnson Controls Objekt Bochum GmbHCo. KG) will also be able to participate in the measures carried out by the transfer companies;
3. Notes that dismissed workers can benefit from a range of measures aiming to re-integrate them into the labour market; considers that the estimated number of participants in business start-up advisory service is low, at only 25 estimated beneficiaries;
4. Notes that the authorities plan to utilise the maximum allowed 35% of all costs on allowances and incentives in form of training allowance (Transferkurzarbeitergeld) constituting 60% or 67% of the worker previous net income – depending on the household situation of the beneficiary;
5. Emphasises that funding provided for training allowance (Transferkurzarbeitergeld) must not replace the legal obligation of the Member State or the former employer; stresses that both the Commission and the Member State shall provide clear and coherent information to specify to what extent Transferkurzarbeitergeld constitutes a legal obligation once the Transfergesellschaft has been set up; requests coherence in both funding practice and information to the Parliament; expects, therefore, the Commission to provide thorough and coherent analysis and details on the elements that go beyond the legal obligations of the Member States; reiterates its position that EGF funding should be used for ‘Transferkurzarbeitergeld’ in order to enable the transfer company to go beyond what it could normally do for the workers, by providing more personalised and in-depth measures than would be possible without EGF support; emphasises that Parliament will continue to monitor that the EGF is not used to replace obligations by a Member State or a company;
6. Calls on the Commission to establish a consistent approach in case of applications including the “Transferkurzarbeitergeld” measure, by consistently defining it in each application and thoroughly checking and citing evidence that the specific measure is indeed eligible for EGF funding as laid down in Article 7 of the Regulation and does not in any way substitute passive social protection measures and the risk of double financing is excluded;
7. Welcomes that the management and control of this application will be administered by the same bodies which administer the ESF within the Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs and which also administered the previous EGF contributions;
8. Reminds that in line with Article 7 of the Regulation, the design of the coordinated package of personalised services should anticipate future labour market perspectives and required skills and should be compatible with the shift towards a resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas HÄNDEL

EMPL Chair

ANNEX: LETTER OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Jean ARTHUIS
Chairman
Committee on Budgets
European Parliament

Dear Mr. Arthuis,

Subject: **Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund**

A Commission proposal for a decision to mobilise the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) has been referred for opinion to the Committee on Regional Development. I understand that it is intended that a report on this will be adopted in the Committee on Budgets on 28 September 2015:

- **COM(2015)0342** proposes an EGF contribution of EUR 6 958 623 for active labour market measures in order to facilitate the re-integration into the labour market of 2 881 workers made redundant in the sector of manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers activities, in the region of Arnsberg, Germany.

The rules applicable to financial contributions from the EGF are laid down in Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 December 2013 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014-2020) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006.

The Committee coordinators have assessed this proposal, and asked me to write to you reporting that the majority of this Committee has no objection to this mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund to allocate the above-mentioned amount as proposed by the Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Iskra MIHAYLOVA

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.9.2015
Result of final vote	+ : 23 - : 7 0 : 4
Members present for the final vote	Nedzhmi Ali, Jonathan Arnott, Jean Arthuis, Reimer Böge, Lefteris Christoforou, Gérard Deprez, José Manuel Fernandes, Eider Gardiazabal Rubial, Jens Geier, Ingeborg Gräßle, Iris Hoffmann, Monika Hohlmeier, Bernd Kölmel, Zbigniew Kuźmiuk, Vladimír Maňka, Ernest Maragall, Siegfried Mureşan, Victor Negrescu, Jan Olbrycht, Paul Rübig, Petri Sarvamaa, Patricija Šulin, Eleftherios Synadinos, Paul Tang, Indrek Tarand, Isabelle Thomas, Monika Vana, Daniele Viotti, Marco Zanni, Auke Zijlstra
Substitutes present for the final vote	Michał Marusik, Andrej Plenković, Nils Torvalds, Anders Primdahl Vistisen