DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Committee on Regional Development

on investment for jobs and growth: promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion in the Union (2014/2245(INI))

Rapporteur: Neoklis Sylikiotis
SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Underlines the fact that the economic crisis has seriously damaged economic, social and territorial cohesion, resulting in huge differences between Member States; recalls that since the onset of the crisis over 3.8 million jobs have been lost in manufacturing in the EU\(^1\);

2. Underlines the fact that the industrial sector constitutes one of the cornerstones of economic and social cohesion in Europe since nearly 80 % of European exports depend on the industrial sector and industry accounts for 80 % of expenditure on R&D in Europe\(^2\);

3. Considers that austerity measures in several European countries are having a negative impact on industrial structures, resulting in a fall-off in investment and more difficult access to credit for manufacturers;

4. Considers that all the new projects and investments promoted by EU funds should have an employment clause that includes the obligation to create new and non-precarious jobs;

5. Calls for more social and public investments, without which it will be impossible to reach the target of raising industry’s contribution to GDP to as much as 20 % by 2020; recalls that all investments and projects should enhance environmental protection.

6. Calls for an inclusive industrial strategy that will tackle unemployment and secure more growth, more jobs with enhanced workers’ rights, and access to public health and education as one of the means of achieving the economic, social and territorial cohesion that is needed in the EU; considers that the ultimate goal should be sustainable development and a high quality of life, together with prosperity and decent work for everyone.

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\(^1\) Industrial Scoreboard 2013, Commission Staff Working Document, p.6.

\(^2\) Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM(2014)0014, For a European Industrial Renaissance, p.3.