



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Industry, Research and Energy*

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**2010/2211(INI)**

28.1.2011

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

for the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013

on policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013  
(2010/2211(INI))

Rapporteur: Herbert Reul

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## **SUGGESTIONS**

The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy calls on the Special committee on the policy challenges and budgetary resources for a sustainable European Union after 2013, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the flagship initiatives highlighted in the EU 2020 Strategy; calls for a broad political concept for a competitive, social and sustainable future for the EU and stresses the need to achieve the EU's social, economic and territorial cohesion; emphasises that the EU flagship initiatives described in the EU 2020 Strategy, most of them related to EU policies in the field of industry, research and energy, require solid, credible and sustainable EU financial support if the EU's key 2020 objectives are to be met and the present problem of fragmentation in EU funding instruments simultaneously addressed; asks, therefore, for reference amounts for the flagship initiatives to be included in the post-2013 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF);
2. Stresses the need to secure long-term financial provision in the next MFF for existing and new long-term flagship programmes in the field of competitiveness for growth and development and, in particular, for any strategic follow-up to the existing long-term programmes; recalls that their implementation requires intensive monitoring and evaluation, as well as budgetary flexibility and simplification, in order to achieve better performance in European programmes; stresses the need to analyse spending of EU funds from an added value point of view, including through better coordination between national and EU budgets;
3. Underlines that long-term challenges in relation to EU competitiveness and sustainable growth must be reflected in budgetary resources, which should not jeopardise existing funding for ongoing EU programmes; stresses the importance of research, innovation, information society and energy in tackling major societal challenges such as economic growth, climate change, energy and resource scarcity, health and ageing;
4. Believes that EU spending should concentrate on policies with European added value, in line with the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and solidarity; underlines that research, energy and ICT infrastructures are examples of European added value;
5. Urges the Commission to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the next set of financing instruments by better monitoring and reporting on qualitative performance indicators;
6. Believes that adequate financing needs to be secured in order to honour the EU's international agreements;

### **Energy policy**

7. Takes the view that the new multiannual financial framework should reflect the EU's political priorities and targets in the field of energy and climate change policies, as outlined in several European Parliament resolutions, such as the resolution on Towards a

new Energy Strategy for Europe 2011-2020<sup>1</sup> and in particular the resolution on the EU 2020 Strategy<sup>2</sup>; emphasises that the Union needs a short, mid- and long-term vision for an efficient and sustainable energy policy to 2050; notes that substantial investments in the European energy infrastructure are needed, so as not to jeopardise meeting EU 2020 targets and achieving long-term 2050 objectives;

8. Calls for energy's share in the EU budget to be increased and notes the potential other financial instruments with effective European added value have for contributing to the funding of key European priority energy infrastructure projects in a regionally balanced manner, where, for example, such projects cannot be financed by the market, as well as for increasing European funding on new and renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency and energy savings policies and measures; states that the latter should remain key priorities, be well reflected and supported by the EU's future financial perspective and reduce the need for additional new energy infrastructures and generation and production facilities in any future energy strategy;
9. Stresses the need to secure long-term financing in order to develop the innovative and sustainable energy technologies that will be needed over the long term and which are essential for sustainable development and creating new markets for EU industry; calls for the immediate implementation of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET Plan) containing concrete actions for research in the field of clean, sustainable and efficient low-carbon energy technologies, representing a large step in the EU energy system; calls also for EU financing to be oriented towards small-scale and decentralised projects in this area; emphasises the need for public financial support in this area; underlines the need to increase finance in research, technological development and demonstration in the area of energy in order to develop clean, affordable energy available for all;
10. Emphasises the need to maximise the impact of European funding by playing a catalytic role in mobilising, pooling and leveraging public and private financial resources for infrastructures of European interest, including the Southern Gas Corridor and other routes for diversification of gas supplies;

## **Industrial policy**

11. Welcomes the fact that the EU 2020 Strategy highlights the importance of industrial policy for sustainable growth, social and economic welfare, and for employment in Europe; calls for a comprehensive vision for European industry in the year 2020, with a view to ensuring that a diversified, competitive, sustainable and low-carbon industrial base is maintained and further developed and that decent green jobs are created as a result; supports strongly the continuation of guarantee instruments in the framework of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) and calls for the resources allocated to the CIP to be extended and considerably expanded; asks the Commission for there to be a stronger emphasis on mezzanine financial instruments in the next generation of programmes and to support them with risk-sharing funds and facilities;

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<sup>1</sup> European Parliament resolution of 25 November 2010 on Towards a New Energy Strategy for Europe, P7\_TA-PROV(2010)0441.

<sup>2</sup> European Parliament resolution of 16 June 2010 on EU 2020, P7\_TA-PROV(2010)0223.

12. Recalls that Parliament called on 10 March 2009 for the visibility and awareness of SME-related policy actions to be further enhanced through the bundling of Community instruments and funds for SMEs under a separate heading in the EU budget;
13. Stresses the need to ensure that adequate budget financing instruments are allocated to supporting the objectives of the Resource Efficiency Strategy flagship initiative put forward by the Commission in 2011;
14. Highlights the need for the European Investment Bank (EIB) to play an important role in financing research and innovation activities, especially as regards industrial innovation projects;
15. Welcomes the Commission's proposal to explore new financing sources for major European investment projects in areas like energy, transport and ICT that have clear European added value;

### **Research, innovation and development**

16. Believes that thriving research, innovation and development must help in addressing major societal challenges of our times, including climate change, resource efficiency, health and ageing population, urban management and mobility, food and water; recalls the EU's objective of strengthening its scientific and technological bases by building a European Research Area; recognises the key role of the EU's policy-oriented, transnational, collaborative programmes, pooling together research and innovation competences to respond to policy challenges at an European level and addressing major societal goals; recognises the role of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as a driver of EU sustainable growth and competitiveness, achieving this through the stimulation of world-leading innovation and calls for priority areas for the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) to be enlarged and duly funded; underlines the importance of continuing efforts to simplify research, innovation and development funding and ensuring access for smaller research institutes, businesses and civil society organisations;
17. Stresses that the EU's competitiveness is very much dependent on its innovation capacity, its research and development facilities and the linkage between innovation and the manufacturing process;
18. Stresses the need to enhance, stimulate and secure the financing of research, innovation and development in the EU via a significant increase in research expenditure from 2013 and to continue efforts to simplify research innovation and development funding and for appropriate programme management; calls in particular for future research, development and innovation funding programmes to be focused around major societal themes, thereby achieving greater resource security and efficiency in particular; calls for increased international cooperation on R&D and more funds for mobility programmes; considers that the EU's support for large-scale projects should not dwarf the funding allocated to research in other areas and that the implementation of such projects should be adequately monitored;
19. Stresses that innovation is one of the main contributors to competitiveness and growth;

calls for a stronger link between basic research and industrial innovation; stresses the success of the Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) and encourages the making of more funds available to the RSFF; believes that the whole chain of innovation should be taken into consideration, from frontier research to technological development, demonstration, dissemination, valorisation of results and rapid integration of research results into markets; encourages Commission proposals for a unitary patent protection system that would considerably decrease translation and administration costs;

20. Stresses the need to improve public-private partnerships, including through cutting red tape and streamlining existing procedures; calls on the Commission to implement a more result-oriented, performance-driven approach to its programmes;

### **Information society**

21. Believes that Europe should play a leading role in creating and applying ICT; believes that the use of ICT helps in underpinning current structural challenges and achieving sustainable economic growth; stresses the importance of continuing efforts towards ubiquitous and high-speed access to fixed and mobile high-speed broadband for all citizens and consumers by 2020, especially in less developed Member States, as well as the promotion of e-initiatives ensuring the rapid execution of the EU's Digital Agenda;
22. Calls on the Commission to engage more closely with regions in order to help them strengthen their capacity to absorb structural and rural development funds allocated to broadband infrastructure investments, and to provide further guidance on the use of funds from public-private partnerships and other financing instruments;
23. Stresses that civil engineering costs account for a large percentage of the cost of deploying new fixed and mobile infrastructure and that this could be reduced through better planning and programme synergies; calls therefore for infrastructure programmes to be better coordinated and integrated, by means of improved planning at national, regional and local level, in order to deliver cost reductions and promote investment;
24. Supports the Commission's initiative of working with the EIB to improve the availability of funding for next generation networks and emphasises the need for such funding to be directed towards open infrastructure projects which support a diversity of services;
25. Calls on the Commission and the EIB to set out concrete proposals for new financial instruments complementing the existing means of financing broadband infrastructure, including guarantee, equity and debt instruments, or a combination thereof, by spring 2011;

### **Space policy**

26. Underlines the strategic importance of the European global satellite navigation systems (Galileo and EGNOS) and of the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme and is convinced that their implementation will require intensive monitoring and evaluation; asks that any future allocation of funds to EU space initiatives, such as Galileo, be under a separate heading and additional to research and innovation funds; underlines that public investment in such projects must bring back benefits to the

EU public sector through financial returns and favourable pricing policies for EU citizens.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	27.1.2011
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 43 -: 0 0: 3
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Jean-Pierre Audy, Ivo Belet, Jan Březina, Reinhard Bütikofer, Maria Da Graça Carvalho, Giles Chichester, Pilar del Castillo Vera, Christian Ehler, Ioan Enciu, Gaston Franco, Adam Gierek, Norbert Glante, Fiona Hall, Jacky Hénin, Romana Jordan Cizelj, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Béla Kovács, Marisa Matias, Judith A. Merkies, Jaroslav Paška, Miloslav Ransdorf, Herbert Reul, Teresa Riera Madurell, Amalia Sartori, Francisco Sosa Wagner, Konrad Szymański, Britta Thomsen, Evžen Tošenovský, Claude Turmes, Niki Tzavela, Marita Ulvskog, Vladimir Urutchev, Adina-Ioana Vălean, Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Henri Weber
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Antonio Cancian, Françoise Grossetête, Jolanta Emilia Hibner, Yannick Jadot, Oriol Junqueras Vies, Bernd Lange, Vladko Todorov Panayotov, Peter Skinner, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Catherine Trautmann
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Marit Paulsen