



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

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**2013/2017(BUD)**

21.6.2013

## **OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Budgets

on 2014 Budget - Mandate for trilogue  
(2013/2017(BUD))

Rapporteur: Csaba Óry

PA\_NonLeg

## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Shares the view expressed in the European Council conclusions of 15 March 2013 that ‘addressing unemployment is the most important social challenge facing us; active employment, social and labour market policies therefore require special priority and attention in the present context and a particular priority must be given to promoting youth employment’; calls for ambitious budgetary allocations for this priority;
2. Is of the opinion that the priority of the EU budget in 2014 should be to sustain economic growth and competitiveness, boost employment and fight against youth unemployment; recalls that the creation of more jobs is an essential element of economic development and that it is necessary to direct the structural funds more efficiently towards promoting employment in line with the Europe 2020 strategy and to accelerate payments of commitments; maintains that flows of funds should be easy to follow for the public;
3. Points out once again that the primary source of financial support for policies designed to tackle unemployment and persistently high rates of poverty and to promote social inclusion in the EU will be provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) over the next budgetary period; therefore, calls on Member States to use 25 % of the budget allocated to cohesion policy for the ESF and 20 % of the ESF allocation for the promotion of social inclusion and to combat poverty, thereby investing in the people of the EU;
4. Urges the Commission to act swiftly to facilitate the implementation of the ESF and of the Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI) to promote supportive, active labour market policies and a good labour policy mix to improve the transition rates back to employment, especially for the long-term unemployed, with Progress, Microfinance and EURES – especially focusing on cross-border partnerships and cooperation – being the tools that should be promoted in Member States;
5. Insists that the fight against youth unemployment should be a priority in the 2014 budget; calls for the Youth Employment Initiative to be ‘front-loaded’ by being used in the first three years of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework; calls for ‘Your first EURES Job’, the targeted mobility schemes under the EURES axis of the PSCI and the preparatory action ‘Activation measures targeting young people - implementing Youth on the Move initiative’ to be used to their full potential in order to foster mobility and to put into operation the ‘youth guarantee’ schemes;
6. Emphasises the importance of adequate funding for civil society networks, particularly given the public perception of the growing gap between the EU and the citizens it represents;
7. Is of the view that the EU budget should support vocational training and professional qualification measures;
8. Emphasises the key role that a renewed European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF)

can play in improving the transition rates to employment given its strong focus on vocational training and career advice, and that it should be ensured that Member States make proper and appropriate use of the EGF; points out that the EGF was created as a separate specific instrument with its own objectives and deadlines and that, therefore, it deserves a dedicated allocation, which, as far as possible, will avoid transfers being made from other budget lines, as has been the case in the past, and which could be detrimental to the achievement of the policy objectives of the EGF; hopes that further improvements in the procedure will be integrated into the new regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (2014–2020) and that the EGF will become more efficient, more transparent and more visible;

9. Calls for solid and accelerated commitment and payment appropriations from the beginning of the seven-year planning period for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived in order to fight extreme poverty, against the backdrop of the current rise of extreme poverty; points out that, in line with Parliament's vote on 12 June 2013<sup>1</sup>, this should not be less than EUR 3.5 billion; takes the view that rules should be drawn up to facilitate a flexible transition in 2014, so as to avoid any interruption in supplies in winter 2013-2014;
10. Highlights the role of the PSCI in supporting activities and best-practice-sharing concerning successful policy interventions and mechanisms to reduce and prevent long-term exclusion;
11. Emphasises that gender mainstreaming principles should apply in the area of social inclusion, since a higher percentage of women than men suffer from poverty because they are excluded from the labour market and as a result of the gender pay gap;
12. Emphasises that the 2014 budget should support measures promoting entrepreneurship in micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including social entrepreneurship and innovative social enterprises and self-employment, as well as facilitate access to financing through the 'social entrepreneurship' axis of the PSCI, among others for enterprises that have developed the social aspect of their CSR; calls for easier access to microcredits available through the Microfinance Facility, and for the EURES scheme to be strengthened to improve job mobility and to foster social enterprises;
13. Points out that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises employ many workers in the EU and that one of the main problems in setting up such enterprises and keeping them going is obtaining financing; proposes, therefore, that greater emphasis be laid on the microfinance element of the PSCI;
14. Stresses that the 2014 budget should provide proper funding for the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and for health and safety at work related programmes and activities in order to sustain and further promote – through a renewed 2014-2020 EU strategy for occupational health and safety – a high level of protection for workers and a prevention culture across the EU, and to help address new challenges to health and safety at work resulting from the economic and financial crisis and from the development of new industrial sectors.

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0257, amendment 75.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

<b>Date adopted</b>	20.6.2013
<b>Result of final vote</b>	+: 36 -: 2 0: 4
<b>Members present for the final vote</b>	Regina Bastos, Edit Bauer, Heinz K. Becker, Jean-Luc Bennahmias, Phil Bennion, Philippe Boulland, Milan Cabrnoch, David Casa, Alejandro Cercas, Ole Christensen, Derek Roland Clark, Marije Cornelissen, Emer Costello, Frédéric Daerden, Karima Delli, Sari Essayah, Richard Falbr, Thomas Händel, Marian Harkin, Nadja Hirsch, Stephen Hughes, Danuta Jazłowiecka, Martin Kastler, Jean Lambert, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Olle Ludvigsson, Thomas Mann, Csaba Óry, Sylvana Rapti, Licia Ronzulli, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Jutta Steinruck, Traian Ungureanu, Inês Cristina Zuber
<b>Substitute(s) present for the final vote</b>	Georges Bach, Kinga Göncz, Jelko Kacin, Jan Kozłowski, Svetoslav Hristov Malinov, Evelyn Regner, Birgit Sippel
<b>Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote</b>	Jürgen Klute