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Plenary sitting

26.6.2013

B7-0325/2013

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 35(3) of the Rules of Procedure and the Framework
Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission

on the European Parliament's priorities for the Commission Work Programme
2014
(2013/2679(RSP))

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on behalf of the S&D Group

B7-0325/2013

European Parliament resolution on the European Parliament's priorities for the Commission Work Programme 2014 (2013/2679(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication on the Commission Work Programme for 2013 (COM(2011)0777),
 - having regard to the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission¹, in particular Annex IV thereto,
 - having regard to the outcome of the regular dialogue between all the Commissioners and the parliamentary committees and the summary report of the Conference of Committee Chairs of 11 June 2013 forwarded to the Conference of Presidents,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2013 on strengthening European democracy in the future European Monetary Union (EMU) (2013/2672(RSP)),
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2013 on the Commission Communication ‘Towards Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the European Social Fund 2014-2020’ (2013/2607(RSP)),
 - having regard to Article 9 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
 - having regard to Rule 70 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to Rule 35(3) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas Europe must be committed to the model of the social market economy, ensuring sustainable growth in order to ensure jobs and a better quality of life for the current generation and the next;
- B. whereas the EU has been unable to overcome the serious economic and social crisis, resulting, among other things, in a weakening of the Community method and in the inability to implement decisions promptly, while decisions relating to growth and employment demand immediate action;
- C. whereas failure to resolve the crisis has led to a worrying decline in trust in the European project, eroding its legitimacy and endangering the turnout in the forthcoming European elections;
- D. whereas the Commission is expected to take action before the end of its mandate, with a view to presenting the remaining announced proposals and putting forward solutions for

¹ OJ L 304, 20.11.2010, p. 47.

the pending issues in an appropriate and effective way;

- E. whereas the financial sovereign debt crisis that has hit Europe, and especially the euro zone countries, has led to a severe economic downturn with negative social consequences for most Member States through rising unemployment, especially youth unemployment, poverty rates and social exclusion;
- F. whereas cohesion and solidarity are at the core of the EU objectives, as reaffirmed by Article 174 TFEU, and whereas they aim to, and should, guide the EU's efforts to tackle the effects of the economic crisis in Member States, including those with economic difficulties caused by financial markets;
 - 1. Emphasises its deep conviction that stability in the financial sector and the success of all financial structural reforms are a pre-condition for achieving sustainable economic growth and employment in the European Union;
 - 2. Recalls that the EU budget needs to reflect the EU's policy priorities; stresses that the EU budget is an investment budget with a strong leverage effect; urges the Commission to defend the EU budget as a powerful tool to boost strategic investment through European added value, to put the European economy back on track, and to counter the long-lasting negative effects of high unemployment and poverty; in this connection, insists on the need to put sustainable economic growth, competitiveness, research and innovation, the fight against youth unemployment, financing European infrastructures and ensuring resources for the most deprived at the centre of EU budget priorities;
 - 3. Further insists on striking a political agreement on: a compulsory and comprehensive revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), granting extra financial means for growth, jobs and social cohesion; maximum overall flexibility, enabling the EU's reinforcement of political priorities; a roadmap to reform the EU financing system, on the basis of a genuine own-resources system and of ensuring the unity of the budget; recalls that if no MFF has been adopted by the end of 2013, the ceilings and other provisions corresponding to 2013 will be extended until a new MFF is adopted; stresses that it will only vote on the MFF Regulation and the Interinstitutional Agreement after the satisfactory conclusion of extensive negotiations with the Council;
 - 4. Reiterates the need to improve the coordination of social and economic policies at EU level so as to avoid discrepancies, build synergies between them and allow them to reinforce each other's objectives;
 - 5. Reiterates again that any further initiative for a deep and genuine EMU based on stability, sustainable growth, solidarity and democracy needs imperatively to be built on the Community method; emphasises that the institutions should practice mutual sincere cooperation; urges the Commission, when considering how to strengthen the social dimension of economic and monetary union, to address Member States' public investment needs, particularly those relating to the social and education targets of the Europe 2020 strategy;
 - 6. Reminds the European Council that it has no power of legislative initiative and that it must stop instructing the Commission on the form and/or content of legislation and must

not bypass the Commission's coordinating, executive and management roles as laid down in the Treaties; reiterates that it cannot accept any further intergovernmental elements relating to the EMU and that it will take all necessary and appropriate action within its prerogatives, if such warnings are not heeded;

7. Warns that austerity measures alone can compromise the quality of employment, social protection and health and safety standards, and considers that budgetary discipline in the euro zone should not be measured only by fiscal and macroeconomic benchmarks, but that this should be complemented, on an equal footing, by employment and social benchmarks as well as progress reports on structural reforms, the aim being to ensure an appropriate and efficient level of social investment and, hence, the sustainability of a social EU;
8. Believes that the Troika system hinders democratic scrutiny and accountability to Parliament and calls for it to be abolished;
9. Calls for a revitalisation of Europe's industry, with the aim of creating new and decent jobs, supporting sustainable growth and improving working conditions for all Europeans; highlights the need to improve the macroeconomic framework for industry, improving access to capital, providing better infrastructure, protecting property rights and supporting in particular SMEs and the social economy, in order to increase their competitiveness and access to new markets;
10. Regrets to see, despite successive promises made by the Commission, the failure to transpose several announced goals into reality, both in quantitative and qualitative terms; urges the Commission to engage with the two co-legislators in an intensive dialogue on delivery and on adoption of the remaining announced legislative proposals;
11. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States;

PART 2

ANNEX TO THE RESOLUTION ON THE COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2014

Implementation

12. Calls on the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, to improve the monitoring, control and audit systems of the operational programmes subject to shared management, to improve performance and reduce levels of irregularity and error, in the framework of the next MFF 2014-2020;
13. Urges the Commission to improve the coherence of its legislative programme, to raise the quality of its legislative drafting, to strengthen its impact assessment of draft laws, to propose wherever appropriate the use of correlation tables with a view to better transposition of EU law, and to back Parliament in its negotiations with the Council on the use of delegated and implementing acts, which risk causing significant blockages in the

legislative process, such as the case of the external action financial instruments for 2014-2020; reiterates its repeated calls for the 2003 Interinstitutional Agreement on better lawmaking to be renegotiated;

A single social market delivering sustainable and inclusive economic growth

14. Recalls the key role played by the single market as an engine for EU integration, economic growth and employment and as a pillar of the EU real economy promoting convergence between euro and non-euro countries; calls, therefore, on the Commission to focus on Single Market Governance in order to streamline the adoption and enforcement of legislative and policy priorities and to develop a regular assessment of Single Market integration – based on the Single Market integration report accompanying the annual growth surveys (AGSs) and on country-specific recommendations – within the European Semester framework;
15. Asks the Commission to pursue consistent implementation of Single Market I and II, by putting forward proposals to develop, complete and implement the digital single market, such as a new strategic framework encompassing availability and the EU cross-border portability of digital content; stresses the need to guarantee a right of universal access to the internet;
16. Calls on the Commission to carefully and rigorously monitor the implementation, enforcement and broadening of the Consumer Agenda, in particular in relation to the new EU schemes for consumer redress, consumer protection and confidence in the SINGLE MARKET; in this regard, underlines the need to develop, adopt and implement specific legislative tools addressing misleading advertisement and marketing practices, transparency and comparability of fees in banking services, switching of bank accounts and the right of access to a basic bank account for all consumers; calls on the Commission to deliver the long-awaited legislative proposal in relation to package travel and holidays;
17. Calls, therefore, for a renewed policy approach to universal access for consumers to utilities sectors (water, energy, transport, gas and electricity, and postal services) based on quality, universality and affordability, with specific attention to the growing vulnerable groups of consumers; highlights the need to tackle in a concrete and efficient manner the issue of consumer energy poverty; calls, therefore, on the Commission to assess the feasibility of developing a scheme for consumer and household insolvency and to put forward a specific legislative proposal;
18. Urges the Commission to implement the Modernised Customs Code by fully developing harmonised e-customs practices;
19. Urges the Commission to present a proposal on the 14th company law directive on the cross-border transfer of company seats, ensuring the preservation of employee participation through transfer in line with the *acquis*, governed in principle by the legislation of the host Member State, except in those cases where the legislation of the host Member State does not provide for at least the same level of participation as that applicable in the home Member State;
20. Stresses that in the interests of further enhancing the efficiency and robustness of the EU's

financial markets as quickly as possible, the pending Commission proposals on financial services must be adopted swiftly, thus avoiding delays in the entry into force of the relevant legislation;

21. Calls on the Commission to adopt as quickly as possible its proposals on a draft regulation establishing a Single Resolution Mechanism and on the follow-up to the recommendations on bank structural reform; underlines the importance for the co-legislators to deal swiftly with these proposals, to allow their speedy entry into force;
22. Calls for negotiations to be reopened on the Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive, as recently highlighted by the Cypriot crisis, in parallel with the proposal for a Directive establishing a framework for the recovery and resolution of credit institutions and investment firms;
23. Calls on the Commission to adopt as soon as possible a proposal on money market funds, taking the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) recommendations fully into account;
24. Calls on the Commission to bring forward a proposal to adopt a convergence code under the EU Semester based on the Europe 2020 strategy and including a strong social pillar;
25. Calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal on the information and consultation of workers, anticipation and management of restructuring, as outlined in the European Parliament resolution of 15 January 2013 (2012/2061(INI));
26. Calls on the Commission to come forward with a proposal for the revision of the Working Time Directive (2003/88/EC), ensuring the protection of all workers against long working hours and the respect of the European Court of Justice (ECJ) decisions on the recognition of on-call time as working time; calls on the Commission to start work on a European framework regulation for decent income, either through collective bargaining or by law, while ensuring the compatibility with, and respect for, national traditions and praxis and the autonomy of social partners; urges the Commission to review the Directive on the application of the principle of equal pay for male and female workers, for equal work of equal value; insists that the Commission pursue stronger efforts towards unblocking the Maternity Leave Directive (2010/18/EU) and to conduct the promised follow-up to the 2010 Commission cost-benefit study on the launching of a paternity leave ;
27. Asks the Commission to present a framework directive on social services of general interest, on the basis of Article 14 TFEU and of Protocol 26;
28. Reiterates its request to the Commission to present a new European strategy on health and safety at work for the coming years, until 2020; asks the Commission to present a proposal for a directive on work-related musculoskeletal disorders and a revision of Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to carcinogens and mutagens at work;

Climate, environment, energy and transport

29. Expects the Commission to submit without further delay legislative proposals to revise the National Emission Ceilings Directive (2001/81/EC) and other air quality legislation, in order to deliver enhanced protection from the negative impacts of air pollution on human health;
30. Welcomes the green paper on a 2030 framework for climate and energy policies, but insists that this be followed up with a legislative proposal including binding targets on CO₂ reductions, energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy; insists that the Commission should come forward with a legislative proposal on monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions from maritime transport; requests that the Commission come forward with a new binding renewable energy target for 2030 of up to 45 %, in order to guarantee investor certainty in related technologies;
31. Urges the Commission to speed up work on the revision of the hygiene package, given recent events surrounding fraudulent practices related to meat products in the EU;
32. Regrets the slow progress made towards submitting a legislative proposal on the use of cloning techniques in food production, and urges the Commission to deliver this, along with a proposal on novel food; calls on the Commission to present, as soon as possible, an adequate policy framework on endocrine disruptors;
33. Urges the Commission to bring forward a proposal to establish an energy observatory with the objectives of improving intelligence on energy import markets and enhancing analysis of export markets; asks the Commission to examine the viability and effectiveness of measures at the EU's disposal to establish and implement a new European Energy Community;
34. Requests that the Commission draw up a strategy on energy poverty, accompanied by the appropriate proposals, including an EU-wide definition of energy poverty;
35. Calls on the Commission to extend the competences of the European Rail Agency in the field of safety, certification and homologation of rolling stocks;
36. Expects the Commission to pursue further efforts towards the full implementation of the Single European Sky, including the establishment of the Functional Airspace Blocks and SESAR (the Single European Sky ATM Research programme) in order to meet future airspace capacity and safety needs;

Agriculture and Fisheries

37. Calls on the Commission to ensure a smooth transition period for 2014 in view of the entry into force of the new Common Agriculture Policy in 2015; furthermore, asks the Commission to put forward the legal framework already announced on promotion policy, as well as the revision of fruit and vegetables and organic farming regulations;
38. Calls on the Commission to take the necessary steps to help Member States implement the newly adopted Common Fisheries Policy in compliance with the future European

Maritime and Fisheries Fund; expects the Commission to ensure that Article 43(2) TFEU forms the legal basis of its proposals and to limit the use of Article 43(3) to proposals strictly connected to the setting and allocation of fishing opportunities; to this end, expects the Commission to help establish an interinstitutional taskforce composed of representatives from all three institutions to identify the most appropriate ways forward;

Cohesive and inclusive societies – Citizens' Europe

39. Recalls that the cohesion policy is the main investment tool for the achievement of the EU 2020 objectives; calls, therefore, on the Commission to take appropriate action in a prompt manner, so as to guarantee a timely start, as well as to set clear conditions to allow implementation of the 2014-2020 operational programmes in the Member States; urges the Commission to table immediately a revised draft of Regulation (EC) No 2012/2002 on the European Solidarity Fund;
40. Welcomes the Commission proposal on conditions of entry and residence for researchers, students, pupil exchanges, trainees and volunteers; calls for further substantive proposals on legal migration; in this regard, expects the Commission to continue encouraging social partners with a view to reaching an agreement on a quality framework for traineeships under Article 155 TFEU; otherwise, the Commission should propose a directive setting quality standards and decent minimum working conditions for internships and apprenticeships;
41. Regrets the absence of a legislative proposal on enhanced intra-EU solidarity in the field of asylum, as repeatedly demanded by Parliament, bearing in mind that the EU is committed to having a functioning common asylum policy in place by 2012, guaranteeing a high level of protection and full respect of fundamental rights;
42. Supports the proposal to amend Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 on the European Agency for Fundamental Rights and calls on the Commission to make a detailed proposal for a monitoring mechanism and early warning system, building on the provisions of Article 7 TEU and Article 258 TFEU;
43. Calls on the Commission to complete the roadmap on procedural rights and to monitor the transposition of the adopted directives, ensuring that the basic rights of suspects and accused persons are protected sufficiently through common minimum standards of procedural rights in criminal proceedings and rendering effective the principle of mutual recognition;
44. Expects the Commission to continue its work towards developing an EU approach to criminal law and welcomes the Commission's intention to present a legislative proposal for the European Public Prosecutor's Office to be responsible for investigating, prosecuting and bringing to justice those who damage assets managed by or on behalf of the EU;
45. Calls on the Commission to prepare an EU roadmap for equality on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, with a view to its adoption by 2014; calls for a recast of

the Council framework decision on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, including other forms of bias crime, such as on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression;

46. Calls on the Commission to come forward with a proposal for a directive on the eradication of violence against women and to sign or ratify the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, thereby giving a strong impetus to the remaining Member States that have yet to do so;
47. Insists that the Commission bring forward its comprehensive review of the Data Retention Directive (2006/24/EC) of the European Parliament and of the Council, and to put forward a proposal to address the shortcomings;
48. Calls on the Commission to continue as a matter of urgency its work on the EU-US agreement on the protection of personal data when transferred and processed for the purpose of preventing, investigating, detecting or prosecuting criminal offences, including terrorism, in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters; reiterates the urgency of its rapid conclusion;
49. Urges the Commission to pursue its copyright reform, to ensure that it is fit for the internet environment and based on social legitimacy; reiterates the need to complete industrial property rights reform to boost Europe's growth and job creation;
50. Expects the Commission to come up with new proposals or further examine the revision of existing legislation in the field of civil and procedural law, in particular Rome II and Brussels II; regrets the fact that employment law issues were insufficiently taken into account during the Brussels I recast and calls on the Commission to consider the creation of an exclusive forum for disputes concerning industrial action, in line with the Rome II Regulation;
51. Requests that the Commission submit a proposal for a regulation on a European law of administrative procedure, with a view to developing a coherent and comprehensive set of codified rules of administrative law; calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal on mutual recognition of the effects of civil status documents;
52. Calls on the Commission to assess the implementation of the regulation on the European Citizens' Initiative and to amend it, where appropriate;
53. Calls on the Commission to ensure at least the same level as 2013, in terms of appropriations allocated to the 'Communicating Europe in Partnership' programme, ahead of the upcoming European elections;

Foreign policy and development policies

54. Stresses the importance of reaffirming with greater determination the enlargement perspective for the Western Balkan countries and shares the Commission's recommendation to start EU accession talks with Serbia and the Former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia (FYROM); calls on the Commission to engage with Turkey as a candidate country which needs to aspire to the highest possible democratic standards and practices, and proposes considering the opening of accession chapters 22 on regional policy and chapters 23 and 24 on fundamental rights and the judiciary;

55. Calls on the Commission to increase the quantity and efficiency of EU humanitarian aid and assistance delivery to people in need of basic goods and services in Syria and among refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries;
56. Calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal setting up a mechanism, financed by the relevant EU external action financial instrument and composed of a team of national and international investigators, prosecutors, lawyers and other experts from EU Member States, as well as other countries concerned (Switzerland, Canada and the United States), aiming to provide legal and technical advice and assistance to the authorities of the Arab Spring countries on the recovery of misappropriated assets stolen by former dictators, their families and regimes;
57. Reminds the Commission of the need to improve its evaluation of the implementation of the consensus on humanitarian aid, its complementarity with Member States and donors and the need to review Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/1996;

Trade

58. Supports the Commission's efforts in all ongoing bilateral trade negotiations, but calls on the Commission duly to consider the Parliament's views with regard to Japan and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; recalls its demand for binding social and environmental standards in all bilateral trade agreements and standards on corporate social responsibility;
59. Expects the Commission's proposals on working towards a 'responsible supply chain' and on combating the worst forms of child labour through trade instruments;
60. Regrets the lack of ambition in the Commission's proposal for the modernisation of the trade defence instruments and calls on the Commission to put forward a proposal for reform of Regulation (EC) No 428/2009 on dual-use items.