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10.1.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Culture and Education

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2018
(2017/2260(INI))

Rapporteur: Julie Ward

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SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Welcomes the adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights joint proclamation and the political shift away from austerity to the promotion of social policies that it reflects; recalls, nevertheless, the need for concrete measures to make the proclamation a reality, with a shared priority given to inequalities reduction and the fight against poverty;
2. Welcomes the intention to incorporate the new Pillar of Social Rights into the implementation of the European Semester, as social investments and measures must be fully part of Member States' policy coordination efforts in order to build a Social Union;
3. In this perspective, calls on the Commission to use the Stability and Growth Pact's flexibility clause, allowing Member States to enhance investment in cultural and youth policies, education, training, research and innovation;
4. Welcomes progress in terms of reduction of early school leaving and higher education attainment, but reminds the Commission and the Member States of the need to promote the right to high-quality inclusive education and training for all, invest in outreach and provide support to the most vulnerable learners and disadvantaged individuals;
5. Calls for proper recognition of the crucial role of informal and non-formal learning, especially for the most vulnerable people, including through validation of acquired skills and qualifications;
6. Welcomes the boost in job creation across the EU; recalls, however, that persistent inequalities in access to education must be better addressed in order to efficiently fight youth unemployment and ensure the inclusion of vulnerable people in the labour market;
7. Reiterates its call for the creation of a Child Guarantee and for proper and swift implementation of the Youth Guarantee, including through improved funding allocation.