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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: Annual Growth Survey 2019
(2018/2119(INI))

Rapporteur: Andrey Kovatchev

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Calls on the Commission to adapt the European Semester process to a new long-term strategic framework guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to support Member States in achieving environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive growth; reiterates the importance of monitoring the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights to ensure significant progress in the realisation of its key principles, in particular the right to access affordable, good quality preventive healthcare;
2. Stresses that greening the economy and investing in more efficient healthcare systems will enhance Europe's capacity to improve the well-being of its citizens; notes that short-term fiscal implications of structural reforms should be taken into account and their long-term environmental, economic and social effects;
3. Considers it important to use the European Semester to accelerate the transition towards a resource-efficient circular economy;
4. Welcomes the proposed allocation of EU funding in the next programming period to support Member States in the implementation of recommendations and structural reforms, but stresses that this linkage should not take the form of a conditionality; calls for the adoption of a more longer-term perspective in the monitoring and assessment of reform progress;
5. Welcomes that in the area of healthcare the European Semester process shifted the focus from cost-saving to health system performance, recognising the importance of health outcomes and access to high-quality healthcare; calls for the development of common indicators and methodologies to assess the performance of healthcare systems with the aim of reducing health inequalities;
6. Underlines the importance of structured and systematic dialogue with civil society at national level with a view to increasing ownership.