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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
The Chairwoman*

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M. Alain Lamassoure
President of the Committee on budgets
ASP 13E158

Subject: Opinion on the mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) for the case EGF/2012/000 TA 2012 (COM(2012)160 final)

Dear Mr Lamassoure,

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) as well as its Working Group on the EGF examined the mobilisation of the EGF for the case **EGF/2012/000 TA 2012** and adopted the following opinion.

The EMPL committee and the Working Group on the EGF are in favour of the mobilisation of the Fund concerning this request. In this respect, the EMPL committee presents some remarks without, however, putting into question the transfer of the payments.

The deliberations of the EMPL committee are based on the following considerations:

- A) Whereas according to Article 8(1) of the EGF Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006, 0,35% of the annual maximum amount of the EGF (500 Mio Euros per year) can be made available each year for technical assistance at the initiative of the Commission; underlines the purpose of such technical assistance - monitoring, information, creation of a knowledge base, administrative and technical support and evaluation;
- B) Whereas activities for the mid-term evaluation of the EGF, as laid down in Article 17§1a of Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006, were contracted out with the resources of the 2010 budget and whereas the ex-post evaluation of the EGF will not begin until 2012;
- C) Whereas the number of EGF cases that has been wind up until today provides for a considerable number of qualitative and quantitative data regarding the influence of

the EGF in relation to the employability of the workers made redundant due to the effects of globalisation or the financial and economic crisis;

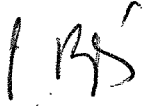
- D) Whereas the operation of the EGF under current Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 will come to an end soon and this analysis is very important for the negotiations on the new EGF regulation for the period 2014-2020;
- E) Whereas the technical assistance provided by the Commission to the Member States supports and enhances the use of the EGF by providing information on the applications and by spreading best practice among the Member States;
- F) Whereas the EGF Working Group has frequently underlined the necessity of a better visibility of the EGF as an community instrument of solidarity with the workers made redundant;

Therefore, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Budgets, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution concerning the mobilisation of the fund for technical assistance of the Commission:

1. Agrees with the measures proposed by the Commission to be financed as Technical Assistance in accordance with Articles 8§1 and 4 as well as with Article 9§2 of the EGF regulation (1927/2006);
2. Notes that the Commission will start to prepare the final evaluation of the EGF; regrets, however, that the results will arrive too late to feed into the discussion on the new regulation for the EGF in 2014-2020, especially regarding the effectiveness of the use of the crisis derogation criterion, since the concerned EGF cases were not analysed in the EGF mid-term evaluation report;
3. Regrets that the Commission does not envisage any particular awareness raising activities for 2012 in the situation where the utility of the EGF and its existence in the next financing period are questioned by Member States, including the frequent users of the Fund; recalls that the current proposal for the technical assistance will leave around 630 thousand EUR unused for 2012;
4. Interrogates the Commission on the impact and efficiency of the information tools funded by technical assistance in previous years; asks for reliable data on the use of those tools;
5. Notes that the Commission will continue to work on the standardised procedures for simplified applications, faster processing of the applications and better reporting; asks the Commission to present the progress made following the use of technical assistance in 2011; recalls the need to shorten the application procedures;
6. Recalls the importance of networking and exchange of information on the EGF; supports, therefore, the funding of the Expert Group of Contact Persons of the EGF; underlines further the importance to liaise all those involved in EGF applications, including the social partners, to create as much synergies as possible;

7. Encourages the Member States to profit from the exchange of best practice possibilities and to learn particularly from those Member States that have already in place national information networks on the EGF involving the social partners and stakeholders at local level with a view to have a good structure for assistance in place once mass redundancies might occur.

Yours sincerely,



Pervenche Berès