The European Parliament,

– having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the European single market generates great economic disparities, poverty and inequality and reduces all the social benefits of the Member States, bypassing and reducing national competences and using the redistribution policy, so-called 'cohesion policy', as a way to set up an illogical and counter-productive enlargement process;

B. whereas the European principle of freedom of movement and the European mobility policy, including the directive on the posting of workers, allow the market participants concerned to avoid or bypass existing social rules in order to obtain a competitive advantage by exploiting the differences between Member States in terms of wages and social taxes;

C. whereas the increasing trend towards resorting to often illegal migration from low-wage countries, bogus self-employment, outsourcing and subcontracting is leading to an increase in the number of precarious jobs and a worsening of unemployment which is already high and undermining levels of worker protection;

1. Emphasises the failure of the internal market and the Commission project on the mobility of workers, including the directive on the posting of workers;

2. Encourages the Commission immediately to cease all attempts to coordinate national wage-setting or collective bargaining mechanisms, such as its current initiative to introduce the principle of 'equal pay for equal work', which is a dangerous attack on the sovereignty of Member States;

3. Calls on the Member States to combat social dumping, including by identifying ‘letterbox companies’;

4. Calls on all levels of government to use every means at their disposal to fight the phenomenon of foreign temporary agencies which, on the basis of Directive 96/71/EC
concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services, engage in unfair competitive practices by offering cheaper drivers from local companies, thus in practice cancelling out the effects of investments in the competitiveness and economic and social growth of the haulage sector;

5. Calls on all levels of government to use every tool at their disposal to combat abuses associated with the use of unreasonable subcontracting, which is all too often used to cover fraud and the use of undeclared foreign workers, particularly in the construction industry;

6. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.

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