

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Session document

16.4.2008

B6-0144/2008

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Hartmut Nassauer and Joseph Daul

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

European Parliament resolution on the Commission's Annual Policy Strategy for 2009

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication on the Annual Policy Strategy for 2009 (COM(2008)0072),
 - having regard to the implementation of the current Legislative and Work Programme for 2008 (COM(2007)0640),
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the Structured Dialogue with the Commission is an important interinstitutional step both in implementing the current Legislative and Work Programme for 2008 and in drawing-up and adopting the Legislative and Work Programme for 2009,
- B. whereas, therefore, it is crucial that the Structured Dialogue should be carried out in good time so that efforts can focus on defining the EU's key strategic objectives for 2009,

Growth and Jobs

1. Underlines, once again, the importance of the vigorous implementation of the Lisbon Strategy, emphasising the interdependence of economic, social and environmental progress in creating a dynamic and innovative sustainable economy;
2. Points to the overriding importance of safeguarding the stability of the financial markets, and notes that the current crisis demonstrates the need for the European Union to develop oversight measures in order to strengthen the transparency and stability of the financial markets and better protect their ability to provide secure, cheap long-term finance for the European economy; asks the Commission to take action to propose the necessary measures in the four areas identified by the ECOFIN Council in October 2007 – increase in investor transparency, better valuation standards, improved prudential supervision, role of rating agencies; asks the Commission to work in full partnership with it when developing the roadmap agreed by the ECOFIN Council on 4 December 2007 in order to improve the Lamfalussy process – financial services legislation, transposition and implementation process;
3. Looks to the Commission to promote more flexible working practices at European level, whilst safeguarding social security, in order to achieve fuller employment and better quality of life, to promote increased mobility and to remove barriers to worker mobility in Europe;

Research

4. Welcomes the EC initiative deepening the European Research Area (ERA) and, in particular, measures to support SMUs, thereby fostering the potential for creating

knowledge-based SMUs, which are central to enhancing the EU's competitiveness;

5. Calls for a further increase in research funding and spending, the key factor in achieving a competitive economy in the future;
6. Calls for an initial evaluation of the implementation of the Seventh Research Framework Programme (FP7) prior to the mid-term review and an evaluation of the work performed by the European Research Council thus far;

Energy

7. Welcomes the Strategic Energy Review which is intended to lead to a new Energy Action Plan (2010-2014);
8. Requests, prior to the adoption of any new legislation on the internal energy market, an evaluation of the full functioning of the internal energy market using a common energy grid in a free and fair competition system;

Internal market

9. Welcomes the overdue support for SMUs, building on the forthcoming European Small Business Act; considers the Small Business Act a very important strategy to support small- and medium-sized undertakings; notes, further, that a financial framework and legislation are required to support SMUs in the most appropriate way; warns, however, against misuse of these instruments to close off national markets, so reducing European competitiveness and consumers' choice;
10. Calls for continued attention to be paid to the transposition of key internal market directives, particularly the Services Directive, and for further development of internal market tools, including the SOLVIT network;

Transport policy

11. Welcomes the Commission's key priorities for the transport sector and, in particular, the proposed measures to implement traffic management systems, such as SESAR (Single European Sky Air Traffic Management Research) and ERTMS (European Rail Traffic Management System), that will contribute to a safer and more efficient European transport policy; with regard to SESAR, urges the Commission to appeal to Member States to initiate the transfer of sovereign rights relating to air navigation services;
12. Urges the Commission to develop, propose or revise and implement a comprehensive passengers' rights policy, covering all those concerned, from air passengers to long-distance coach passengers;

Climate Change and Sustainable Europe

Climate change

13. Undertakes to cooperate closely with the Council and Commission to find an effective and workable agreement on the Climate Change and Energy Package in the shortest practicable time;

Agriculture

14. Notes that 2009 will see the implementation of the legislative changes agreed upon in the context of the CAP Health Check and expects Parliament's position to be fully respected; welcomes the Commission's indication that in 2009 a number of proposals will be made to reduce bureaucracy and red tape and trusts that this will also apply to farmers, notably with regard to cross-compliance; welcomes the Commission's intention to promote quality production in agriculture and expects to play an active role in the formulation of concrete proposals; regrets the fact that the 2009 APS fails to take account of growing concerns over food security;

Fisheries

15. Invites the Commission to continue its preparatory action for maritime policy (€ 6 million); urges that particular attention should be paid to the imposition of any reduction in financial resources for the common fisheries policy and calls on the Commission to add to the key actions envisaged for 2009 under 'sustainable Europe' a new fisheries chapter on the reform of the common market organisation for fisheries and aquaculture products;

Regional and cohesion policies

16. Notes that the 2009 APS makes no special reference to cohesion policy, on the grounds that no legislative activity is expected in that field for the coming year; considers, however, that a more prominent position should be given in the APS to policies that have entered their implementation phase, like cohesion policy, in order to better reflect their important role and impact in connection with ensuring growth, development and prosperity for European citizens;

Making the Common Immigration Policy a Reality

Border protection

17. Calls on the Commission to speed up the adoption of relevant measures to ensure the full implementation of the SISII as well as the decisions relating to the Prum Treaty; at the same time, it is imperative that Frontex should be strengthened and given sufficient resources to achieve its operational objectives;

Asylum

18. Considers it a priority that the Dublin II Convention should be revisited in order to bring about a more equitable distribution of the burden faced disproportionately by Member States on the EU's southern border; underlines that, in this context, a robust returns policy needs to be introduced and fully implemented;

Putting the Citizen First

European civil law

19. Calls for further progress on the Common Frame of Reference (CFR) as one of the most significant pre-legislative undertakings and underlines the need for close cooperation between it, the Council and the Commission on this project;

Area of freedom, security and justice (AFSJ)

20. Underlines that in 2009 the new Treaty will recognise a new role for the European Parliament in connection with AFSJ policies and the conclusion of international

agreements relating to those policies; this implies a major revision of some legislation relating to the existing pillar structure, as well as a review of the status of Europol and Eurojust;

Terrorism and organised crime

21. Believes that Europe needs a broader concept of terrorism and conspiracy, which should be defined in a practical and efficient way so as cover different forms of criminal activities and which enables the exact nature of the Jihadist threat to be identified and addressed; calls for counter-terrorism policies then to be defined comprehensively, and urges the Commission to submit a proposal that safeguards and promotes the interests of the victims of terrorism, and to develop proposals to ensure a greater degree of bio-preparedness;
22. Calls for more work to be done on tackling organised crime, addressing cyber crime in particular, and urges the Commission to step up the efforts to address the scourge of trafficking in human beings;

Education, training and culture

23. Calls on the Commission to consolidate the European Education Area, in particular by improving the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of EU education and training systems; particular attention should be paid to lifelong learning by developing student mobility, language skills and adult learning; stresses the importance of cultural diversity, in particular in the field of digital content;

Health

24. Is waiting impatiently for the long-delayed Commission proposal on cross-border health and also looks forward to the pact on mental health;

Europe as a World Partner

25. Underlines the importance of concluding the accession negotiations with Croatia as soon as possible, also as a signal to the wider Western Balkans region that its future lies within the EU, provided that it can meet the necessary requirements;
26. Underlines the importance of a strong relationship with Japan and the Republic of Korea, based on common values, as important partners in the global economy; points out that further development of relations with North Korea will also depend on the implementation of the results of the six-party talks;
27. Calls on the Commission to support the incorporation of a parliamentary dimension into the neighbourhood-east policy through the establishment of a EURO-NEST Assembly, bringing together MEPs and MPs from the neighbourhood-east countries;
28. Calls on the Commission to pursue efforts to establish a EU common foreign energy policy in order to ensure that Europe enjoys energy security and speaks with one voice vis-à-vis EU suppliers; looks to the Commission to take all appropriate measures to facilitate the implementation of the Nabucco project, regarded as the one of the most critical projects of European interest;

Better Regulation - Delivery on Pledges and Change of Regulatory Culture

Good governance, better regulation and better lawmaking

29. Endorses the Commission proposals aimed at reducing administrative burdens; notes that these largely echo proposals included in the 2008 Annual Policy Strategy and calls for tangible results to be achieved sooner rather than later;
30. Reiterates its determination to achieve the goal of a 25% reduction in administrative burdens on undertakings at EU and national level by 2012; regards this as a key priority, in particular for SMUs and as an essential contribution to reaching the Lisbon targets; reiterates that all legislation must pursue that goal; however, the simplification, codification and recasting of the existing *acquis* should not work to the detriment of policy objectives;
31. Believes that impact assessments must be independently scrutinised and carried out systematically in the context of a legislative process and also as part of the process of simplifying legislation; calls, therefore, for more active monitoring and reporting of the transposition of the EU law by the Commission; stresses that it should be more closely involved in monitoring the application of Community legislation, and underlines the need for closer interinstitutional cooperation with regard to comitology procedures;

Budgetary control

32. Underlines that for the Structural Fund programming period 2000-2006 reporting by the Member States and the Commission of irregularities has to be strengthened; the action plan adopted by the Commission has to be closely monitored; a new reporting scheme on figures with definitions of their meaning and a classification of irregularities has to be worked out; this scheme and reporting has to be applied for the new programming period 2007-2013; the Commission made a firm commitment to work with the Member States on these issues and also with all the DGs dealing with recoveries in order to bring forward a unified reporting scheme on irregularities and recoveries; underlines that it will be an important point for the discharge in 2009;
33. Looks to the Commission to work on the quality of the national declarations (26 Member States delivered a summary of EU expenditure, as provided for by paragraph 44 of the Interinstitutional Agreement and Article 53b of the Financial Regulation) in order to make them usable for the European Court of Auditors (ECA) and expects a very early report on the quality of these summaries and proposals on how to improve their quality; calls for these declarations to be audited by the respective national courts of auditors or by the ECA, and wants these declarations to be a usable information tool;
34. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the parliaments of the Member States.