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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission  
pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure  
on the Work Programme of the European Commission 2011

**Lothar Bisky**  
on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Work Programme of the European Commission 2011**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Commission Work Programme 2011,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas all over Europe people are demonstrating against the austerity policy of the European Union and its Member States which results in deep cuts in wages, social benefits and public services; whereas people are resisting paying the costs of a financial crisis caused by the irresponsible profit-driven behaviour of banks; whereas people disagree with the neoliberal policies which opened the way to this development,
- B. whereas at the same time the core Member States and the European institutions are imposing further restrictions on national budgets and are strengthening the Stability Pact; whereas this policy will compress demand while cutting wages and paving the way for the introduction of a radical liberalisation programme, thereby creating the conditions for a new economic crisis; whereas the European Commission is preparing the ground for the implementation of an austerity policy by proposing further pension reforms in 2011, further reforms of the job protection and state aid system and further liberalisation and privatisation,
- C. whereas banks are once again making large profits; whereas the EU and the Member States have proved to be unwilling to enforce restrictions and regulations on the banks' trading, thereby not tackling the roots of the crisis,
- D. whereas the financial and economic crisis continues in the EU, accompanied by a boom in some Member States, especially in Germany, and with the stagnation or even a decline in the economies in some other countries, e.g. Greece, Ireland, Spain and Portugal,
- E. whereas in total 84 million people in the EU live in poverty, including a scandalous 19 million children; whereas at the same time both the number of wealthy people and the value of their wealth have increased,
- F. whereas the Commission work programme 2011 fails to respond to these challenges; whereas growing polarisation in the EU and the continuation of neoliberal policies endanger European integration and the EU as such,
1. Takes the view that the Commission programme 2011 focuses on the wrong priorities and is based on neoliberal policy approaches which resulted in the economic and financial crisis; calls for a radical policy change which puts the expansion of macroeconomic demand and the promotion of full employment first;

2. Deplores that the new procedures whereby the Commission does not present an annual policy strategy in preparation of its work programme reduce the scope of the European Parliament's influence on the work programme in its early stages; calls on the Commission to rectify this situation;
3. Notes with concern that the first year of the Lisbon Treaty was marked by strong clashes between the European institutions on the democratic participation and scrutiny rights of the European Parliament; underlines the fact that the democratisation of the European Union is imperative for the survival of the European Union and that strengthening the role of the European Parliament is an important aspect of this challenge;

*Economic governance and regulation of the financial sector*

4. Rejects the proposals of the Commission on Economic Governance which do not reflect adequately the profound imbalances within the EU; criticises the fact that these proposals intend to strengthen the preventive and corrective arms of the discredited Stability and Growth Pact which is tending to sink the economies of many Member States into a deep recession and to create very negative implications for the majority of European economies;
5. Underlines the need to revoke the Stability and Growth Pact in parallel with the establishment of an Employment and Growth Pact which will foster public investment, boost internal demand, support micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and set specific economic, social and environmental criteria tailor-made to the particular needs of each Member State, in particular targeting unemployment and poverty reduction;
6. Reiterates its strong criticism of the new financial supervision framework in the Union; deplores that it leaves the real sources of financial risks untouched and that the banks that operate across Europe will continue to be supervised by national authorities with weak powers;
7. Calls for stringent rules that prevent banks from taking excessive risks and externalising risk to the shadow bank sector; takes the view that the public bank sector and cooperative banks should be promoted with at least one major public bank to ensure financing for socially and ecologically desirable projects;
8. Criticises the unwillingness of the EU to regulate and to cut back hedge funds and private equity which considerably contributed to the crises by increasing macro-prudential risks; pointed out that private equity are responsible for big asset stripping, for countless job-losses and for liquidations of many companies in the EU; strongly criticises that the new EU regulation on hedge funds and private equity aims at standardising and granting legal certainty of these harmful products instead of cutting them back;
9. Stresses the need to strengthen the rules on rating agencies and to improve the supervision of rating agencies worldwide; calls for the establishment of a European Public Credit Rating Agency in order to overcome conflicts of interest which impair the credit rating process;
10. Strongly condemns the rejection of any kind of financial transaction taxes by the

Commission and the majority of the Member States; takes the view that taxes on currency transactions (Tobin Tax) and on stock exchange transactions (including over-the-counter transactions) must be introduced at EU level;

#### *European Platform to combat poverty*

11. Deeply deplores that the 2010 'European Year to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion' did not bring real results; notes that the new strategy has just a single target for reducing poverty - to cut the number affected by 20 million, but does not propose effective policies; strongly criticises that the fight against poverty is just a flagship programme which will rely on the so-called 'open method of coordination';

#### *Cohesion policy and structural funds*

12. Expresses its preoccupation that in its work programme the Commission mentioned cohesion policy only as a subsidiary element of the flagship initiative 'Resource efficient Europe' and in connection with the adaptation of the EU financial framework;
13. Reiterates its position that cohesion policy should not be subordinated to the priorities of the neo-liberal EU2020 strategy that puts the emphasis on 'competitiveness', 'deregulation', 'adaptability' and 'entrepreneurship'; stresses that competitiveness should not be a substitute for convergence in Member States and regions which lag behind in development;
14. Emphasises that regional policy is an indispensable tool for promoting economic and social cohesion, with the principal objective of reducing regional disparities, the promotion of real convergence, encouraging growth and employment; insists that cohesion policy must be pursued and strengthened after 2013 and should always remain an independent policy providing sustainable development (economic, social, environmental, territorial), reductions in disparities between regions and the backwardness of the poorer regions;
15. Believes that the existing EU funding and current EU financial resources for cohesion policy are insufficient to meet the needs of real convergence, regional disparities, high levels of unemployment, income inequalities and poverty in the European Union; points out the need for the EU budget to be strengthened in the area of cohesion policy; stresses the importance of territorial management and planning remaining the responsibility of individual Member States;
16. Considers that GDP should remain the main criterion for determining eligibility for regional policy assistance but has to be complemented by other indicators that go beyond GDP, including needs regarding the eradication of poverty and social exclusion, gender equality, equity and equality for all (including governance between the different European regions and overcoming inequality based on income and wealth), energy, natural resource use and ecosystem pressures;
17. Recommends that cohesion policy should be adapted to the outermost regions as referred to in Article 349 of the TFEU through the adoption of specific measures; invites the Commission to propose measures on a permanent basis and with proper funding, capable

of adapting to the needs of each outermost region, helping them to tackle the permanent constraints faced;

#### *Posting of Workers Directive*

18. Takes note of the Commission's intention to launch a legislative instrument stipulating rules on the enforcement and implementation of the Posting of Workers Directive (PWD); stresses, however, that a thorough revision of that Directive is needed, in order to ensure the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work and work of equal value at the same workplace and clarifying that its stipulations on minimum wages are minimum requirements that cannot be interpreted as maximum levels, as has been done by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice;
19. Insists, with a view to the debate on further changes to the Treaty in the context of the next round of enlargement, on the introduction of a Social Progress Clause in EU primary law, stipulating that fundamental rights in general and the right to strike and industrial action, to collective bargaining etc. always have primacy over the 'fundamental freedoms' of the internal market;

#### *Revision of the Working Time Directive*

20. Expresses serious concern at the Commission's intention to propose a revision of the Working Time Directive 'to adapt the Directive to new realities' and to clarify its implementation 'in particular as regards the problem of on-call time'; reminds the Commission that Parliament opposed the proposals from the Commission and the Council to weaken the existing Working Time Directive and that consequently the conciliation procedure on this dossier failed in the last parliamentary term for good reasons; warns the Commission of any attempt to water down the Working Time Directive when proposing a new revision of that Directive;
21. Calls on the Commission to propose a revision of the Working Time Directive in line with the goal of reconciling employment and non-work life, which inter alia necessitates at least:
  - a clear limitation of the maximum working week at EU level (down from the present norm of 48 hours per week to 40 hours as a first step, abolishing all present derogations and loopholes in the existing Directive), which would provide Member States with an incentive for working time reduction at the national level, thus also helping to combat unemployment;
  - abolishing all possibilities to 'opt out' of the Directive and fully implementing the ECJ judgements (on-call time spent at the workplace must be regarded as working time; compensatory rest must be granted immediately after time spent on duty);
  - where a worker has more than one work contract, measures must be taken to ensure that the worker's working time is defined as the sum of the periods of time worked under each of the contracts;

#### *Health & safety at work*

22. Welcomes the Commission's intention to review Directive 2004/37 on the protection of workers against risks associated to the exposure of carcinogens and mutagens at work; stresses that the scope of that Directive needs to be extended to take into account new risk factors and reprotoxins, that the level of protection and prevention needs to be thoroughly improved by making exposure limit values (OELVs) for benzene, vinyl chloride monomer and hard wood dust more restrictive and by defining (OELVs) for a much bigger number of carcinogens than stipulated by the current Directive, in particular for crystalline silica;
23. Welcomes the Commission's intention to launch a Community initiative on work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD); criticises, however, that the Commission proposes a narrow approach of a 'recast procedure' merging the provisions of Directives 90/269/EEC and 90/270/EEC into a single legislative instrument; calls on the Commission to propose a new Directive, based on the principles of prevention as described in Framework Directive 89/391/EEC on health and safety at work and designed to cover all work situations in a holistic approach to rule out MSD risk factors right from the outset; points out that not only biomechanical constraints, but also work content, work organisation, the physical and psychosocial environment, sensory and emotional constraints must be addressed, including the 'gender dimension' as women and men are differently affected by MSD risks;
24. Considers that the new Community strategy for occupational health and safety at work 2013 - 2020 must break with the approach of the preceding strategy (2007 - 2012), which viewed occupational health primarily as a variable of the productivity and competitiveness of businesses; points out that the new strategy should focus on using the potentials of REACH for improving workers' protection from chemical hazards, a renewed effort for preventing work-related illnesses and improving workers' quality of life at work, strengthening the monitoring and enforcement responsibilities of labour inspectorates and workers' participation in designing, monitoring and implementing prevention policies, improving the recognition of occupational diseases and addressing flexibility, insecurity, sub-contracting etc. as obstacles to proper risk prevention;

#### *Information and consultation of workers*

25. Takes note of the Commission's intention to revise Directives 2001/86/EC (Statute for a European Company, involvement of employees) and 2003/72/EC (Statute for a European Cooperative Society, involvement of employees); points out that the Commission's objective 'to simplify the arrangements for the involvement of employees' might already indicate its willingness to bow to the pressure of industry lobbies ('workers' participation is a burden for the SE'); emphasises that SE legislation was not intended to be – and must not be allowed to become – an instrument for putting national regulations on employee involvement and co-determination in competition with each other; calls on the Commission to withdraw its proposal on the Statute for a European Private Company, which would dismantle workers' participation rights even further;

#### *White Paper on Pensions & Revision of the IORP Directive*

26. Takes the view that the Commission's announced 'White Paper on Pensions' might only

serve as a propaganda platform for a further dismantling of statutory pension systems; strongly criticises that already the Commission's Green Paper on Pensions indicated that the 'adequacy' of pensions from public schemes might need to be adapted downwards in the light of budget deficits, demographic trends and slower growth to be expected in the next years and that the length of working life should be extended;

27. Strongly criticises the Commission's orientation that funded schemes shall be given a new boost by 'strengthening the internal market for pensions' – not only for occupational pension schemes, but for a wide variety of private pension funds, life insurance and the like - which obviously shall inform the proposed review of the Directive concerning the Institutions for Occupational Retirement Provision (IORP); strongly criticises that the IORP Directive opened service provision for occupational pension schemes to competition and heavily liberalised requirements on prudential regulations;
28. Points out the disastrous consequences of liberalisation policies and the partial privatisation of pension systems: funded schemes could not deliver on earlier promises to provide for higher returns and secure pension payouts, as demonstrated by their heavy losses (at least 20% of asset values) during the financial crisis, which resulted in ongoing bail-outs from Member States, higher contributions and cuts in benefits from these schemes;
29. Advocates a step-by-step re-integration of the assets of funded schemes into public pension schemes - as Argentina has done - with the aim of increasing redistribution, so as to promote the double aim of preventing poverty at old age and to maintain living standards as regards the earnings-related components of pension systems;

#### *Agenda for new skills and jobs*

30. Takes note of the Commission's intention to establish an EU 'skills audit' every two years; considers, however, that the development of skills and competences throughout the lifecycle is best served by a rights-based approach to active labour market policies and lifelong learning, comprehensive health and safety at work, universal and equal social and workers' rights for everyone, a work/life balance and reconciliation of work and non-work life, improving the quality of employment and well-being at work instead of a narrow approach of 'boosting labour mobility' and promoting flexicurity; insists that the skills and jobs agenda must be closely linked to robust supply and demand side measures to promote a green and social economy and respective industrial and regional policies for sustainable development, rather than a mere strategy of 'anticipating change';

#### *Youth on the move*

31. Takes note of the Commission's intention to amend Regulation 1612/68 (EURES) in order to include an EU-wide scheme for the mobility of young workers; insists that mobility of young workers must be freely chosen by them and may not be imposed on them by conditionality requirements;
32. Considers that the focus on promoting the mobility of young people alone is too narrow to effectively combat youth unemployment; therefore suggests that the Commission shall

submit a proposal on a European Youth Guarantee securing the right of every young person in the EU to be offered a suitable well-paid job in line with their qualifications and skills, an apprenticeship, additional training or combined work and training immediately upon facing unemployment;

#### *Women's rights and gender equality policy*

33. Insists that the EU's new gender equality strategy should constitute an agenda for action and a political commitment based on the Beijing Platform for Action and its achievements, bearing in mind that the human rights of women and girls form an inalienable, indivisible and integral part of universal human rights;
34. Calls, as a matter of urgency, for concrete measures to combat wage discrimination, whether by revising the existing directive, by drawing up phased industry-wide plans with clear-cut goals – such as narrowing the pay gap to 0-5% by 2020 – aimed at ending direct and indirect forms of discrimination, or by encouraging collective bargaining and the training of equality advisers, addressing the unequal share of unpaid work between women and men and laying down equality plans for factories and other workplaces;
35. Emphasises the importance of combating stereotypes in all walks and at all stages of life, since these are one of the most persistent causes of inequality between men and women, affecting their choices in the field of education, training and employment, the distribution of domestic and family responsibilities, participation in public life and participation and representation in decision-making positions, and their choices regarding the labour market, calls for a directive on preventing violence against women;

#### *Internal Market*

36. Takes the view that any internal market policy should put the social rights and interests of European citizens first; rejects the proposals of the Commission on the Single Market Act which are targeted towards competitiveness and an acceleration of the pace of the liberalisation; calls as a first step for a moratorium on liberalisation policies and invites the Commission to carry out studies in collaboration with the actors concerned on the economic and social consequences of liberalisation policies;
37. Is deeply concerned in view of austerity policies about the future of public services in the EU; stresses the importance of public services and the provision thereof for the promotion of social, economic and territorial cohesion in the EU; strongly criticises the bias against the state as a provider of services of general interest and calls for public goods to be placed under the management of the public sector; insists on the strengthening of the state's role in regulation, participation and intervention in the market; stresses the need to revise the Services Directive in this regard;
38. Insists that the Commission's policy in the area of state aid must not jeopardise duties relating to the general interest and the general economic interest in the Member States; considers that public aid, at national and EU level, to enterprises should be linked to long-term commitments by them in terms of regional development and employment and that no aid should be granted that could be used to promote relocations; asks for a



strengthened role for workers' representatives on firms' executive boards and in structural management decisions;

39. Notes that the Commission did not put forward proposals on consumer protection in times when the prices of basic goods are rising, thus asks the Commission to propose a fundamental change in price control giving states the opportunity to control the prices of basic goods for the benefit of the people;
40. Stresses the further need to develop a level-playing field for SMEs which continue to face competition disadvantages on certain markets, for instance in the public procurement procedures;

#### *Climate change*

41. Underlines that the global economic crisis cannot and must not be used as an excuse for inaction or for denying climate justice; reiterates that developing a sustainable economy is a fundamental part of a path out of the present crisis; calls therefore for Green innovation as the basis of transforming industry for sustainable growth, promoting environmentally friendly technologies, reducing energy dependency and securing employment and social and economic cohesion in both developed and developing countries;
42. Calls for the urgent adoption of ambitious measures regarding climate and energy so as to avoid further costs of climate change, through a Commission initiative to step up beyond 40% reduction in GHG emissions by 2020 and at least a 80%-95% reduction by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, in order to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;
43. Calls for the replacement of the EU 'indicative' target of 20% greater energy efficiency by 2020 by a mandatory target and 20% of EU energy consumption to come from renewable resources; calls for concrete binding measures setting guidelines to implement enhancing energy efficiency from renewable sources; deplores that only one of the Commission initiatives on energy is of a legislative nature; calls for the Commission to adopt this legislative proposal by the end of June 2011;
44. Calls for a Commission initiative in order to review the Clean Development Mechanism and the Emission Trade system, actually undermining seriously the target of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the EU and worldwide; insists that effective domestic reductions should be pursued, without relying on market instruments or on flexibility mechanisms;
45. Urges the Commission to present projects through which the EU and the developed world will assist developing countries in their deployment of sustainable and efficient technologies by means of adequate financial, technical, technological capacity building support without binding them to acquire expensive patents, in addition to adopting ambitious mitigation targets;
46. Stresses the need to promote innovative and additional sources of financing climate actions in the context of a global agreement including international financial transaction taxes and financing from international aviation and shipping; emphasises that full and

transparent provisions of climate financing will be a key factor as a new and additional contribution over and above existing ODA budgets, with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation;

47. Points to the need to present a future climate change regime with robust rules of land use, land use change, conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stock in developing countries, ensuring the adequate implementation of the REDD+ programme;

#### *Energy policy*

48. Notes that the Commission is tackling energy questions with priority; considers that any future strategy should seek to fulfil the objectives of energy efficiency and savings, the development of new and renewable forms of energy, the promotion of energy networks and security of supply; insists the EU's energy policy should contribute to affordable energy prices for the benefit of all consumers, the enhancement of renewables in the framework of sustainable energy production, and the development of interconnected, integrated, interoperable and smart energy networks; rejects the concept of subordinating foreign policy to securing energy supply;
49. Welcomes the Commission proposal on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and is of the opinion that the Commission should step up the process of adoption of the highest nuclear safety standards; calls on the Commission to include the Regulation on reporting intra-Community transfers of nuclear items also in its work programme 2011;
50. Welcomes the Commission legislative initiative providing the framework for implementation of smart grids in order to increase energy efficiency and the uptake of electricity from renewable energy sources and urges the Commission to adopt this legislation in 2011;
51. Welcomes the Commission efforts in the field of research and innovation but insists on a clear distinction between research and innovation policies; remarks that the matter of social innovation should be reinforced within the EU innovation policy;

#### *Transport*

52. Rejects any further privatisation and liberalisation of the transport sector; expresses particular concern about the Commission's plans in the railway and air transport sectors;
53. Expresses concern at the Airport Package which intends to enhance competition; takes the view that the practice has shown that privatisation and competition do not lead to the improvement of safety, security and strengthening of passengers rights, but to less security and the worsening of social rights for people working in this sector;
54. Rejects the concept of the creation Single European Railway Area which, under the pretext of establishing an internal market and a recast of the directive, is intended to make public transport subject to competition, to promote privatisation and to decouple competences in the railway sector asking for concrete fragmentation of jobs and related

rail safety knowledge;

55. Strongly criticises that the European Commission, without an exhaustive assessment on the social and economic impact of the already existing deregulation, insists on the splitting of public transport into business areas: stations, rolling stock, maintenance yards, supply units, thereby multiplying administrative burdens and weakening safety provisions and reliable services for customers;

#### *Environmental policy*

56. Insists on the revision of Regulation (EC) No 2152/2002 on waste statistics, with the aim of simplifying the Regulation and aligning it with other reporting obligations in Community waste legislation, since this revision was announced in CWP 2010, but has remained without concrete follow-up;
57. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal for the further development of the 'LIFE+ programme' (Financial instrument for the Environment); notes with concern that the number of projects financed under the LIFE+ programme each year is below the indicative allocation in various Member States; invites the Commission to assess the reasons for this under-implementation and where necessary to propose changes to the rules governing the programme, particularly as regards co-financing levels;
58. Requests an evaluation of the REACH regulation, which should lead to legislative proposals under the co-decision procedure, including a review of scope of the REACH regulation (by 2012), a review concerning the extension of the scope of stricter authorisation requirements to endocrine disruptors (by 2013), a review as to whether the obligation to perform a chemical safety assessment and to produce a chemical safety report on certain substances which are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (by 2014);
59. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal for an asbestos decommissioning directive, including the controlled disposal of asbestos fibres and the decontamination or disposal of equipment containing asbestos fibres in order to eliminate them completely; recalls to this effect its resolution on REACH of 7 May 2009 and more specifically paragraph 8 of the resolution;
60. Insists on the review of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls along the food chain; regrets that the Commission has not announced any legislative proposal since the publication of the report on the overall operation of official controls (COM(2010)441);
61. Insists on an urgent follow up of the resolutions of the European Parliament on indoor air quality; recalls its resolution of 4 September 2008 on the Environment and Health Action Plan, specifically paragraph 14 and its resolution of 10 April 2008 on the 6th Community Environment Action Programme, paragraph 11; regrets that the Commission refused to take these requests into consideration when proposing legislation;
62. Regrets the omission from the Work Programme of several follow up reports mentioned in several pieces of legislation that fall within the scope of the Committee on Environment, Health and Food Safety, such as the proposal to amend Council Directive

96/82/EC on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso II Directive), the review of the exemption from the cadmium ban provided for portable batteries and accumulators intended for use in cordless power tools, a proposal for a directive addressing NOx emissions from aviation and the recast of Directives on plastic food contact material and articles into one Commission Regulation;

63. Insists on an urgent follow up of the Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts and a more ambitious approach than commented in CWP 2011; in view of the interconnections between drought, forest fires and desertification, calls on the Commission to present a proposal for a directive similar to the directive on floods, to promote the adoption of an EU policy on water scarcity, drought and adaptation to climate change; calls on the Commission to present and to carry out, together with the Member States, legislative proposals and initiatives in the area of forest protection and fire protection; calls on the Commission to present a directive on Water Efficiency of Buildings in connection with the Blue Print to safeguard Europe's water resources (announced for 2012);

#### *Common Agricultural Policy*

64. Believes that a reform of the CAP is necessary, with fair prices for small- and medium-sized farmers and family farms in particular, and with aid being linked as closely as possible to production and distributed fairly among producers, products and countries, subject to ceilings and modulation, the main objective being to increase food production throughout the territory of EU countries with a view to food security and food sovereignty;

#### *Fisheries policy*

65. Reiterates that the new Common Fisheries Policy should promote the modernization and sustainable development of the fisheries sector, ensuring its socio-economic viability, the sustainability of resources, the maintenance and creation of jobs and the improvement of living conditions of fisheries workers;
66. Insists on measures to improve the price of the first sale of fish and the income of fisheries workers, on subsidy or compensation mechanisms for fisheries workers affected by the economic and social repercussions of the recovery plans, multi-annual management and measures for the protection of ecosystems;
67. Calls on measures to ensure national sovereignty over the Exclusive Economic Zone of Member States and their fisheries resources, allowing proximity management; takes the view that 12 miles should be maintained as a zone of exclusive access for the national fleet of each Member State and proposes to consider the possibility of its extension to adjacent areas, conforming to the continental shelves;
68. Rejects any form of privatization of fisheries resources, including the transferability of fishing quotas, leading to the creation of quota markets in the Member States, which would severely hinder traditional fishing;

### *Stockholm programme*

69. Deplores the fact that measures adopted and implemented under the AFSJ and the Stockholm Programme have led to the establishment of an excessive approach to security, restricting fundamental rights, including privacy and freedom of expression; rejects the disproportionate character of security measures that lead to ever more surveillance and profiling, violations of human integrity – both personal and collective – and that do not tackle the root causes of violent actions;

### *Asylum and migration*

70. Calls for a real and ambitious EU-wide refugees resettlement programme which ensures the quality and effectiveness of resettlement, containing specific guidelines on a new model of priority-setting, incentives to attract more Member States to resettle refugees, consistency of resettlement with other EU asylum policies, and standards of reception conditions and follow-up measures to be taken in each resettlement initiative;
71. Reaffirms its opposition to the repressive approach of EU immigration policies; asks therefore for new initiatives that should focus more on legal entry channels for migrants and on the establishment of a charter of rights of all migrants, while supporting the regularisation of migrants already residing and working in the EU;
72. Calls for the presentation of a specific directive containing and translating into EU law all the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1990;
73. Considers that the development and strengthening of Eurojust should be conducted on the basis of strengthened democratic controls, the right to information, protection of personal data and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

### *Data protection*

74. Welcomes the proposal for a new comprehensive EU legal framework for protection of personal data and stresses that it should do away with the current incoherence of data protection regimes between the former pillar structures while reaffirming the core principles of data protection like purpose limitation, proportionality, transparency, informational self determination, data minimisation, data retention and right to access;
75. Emphasises that the future EU-US general Data Protection agreement is to be seen as a so-called ‘umbrella agreement’ which should be retroactively applicable and thus cover all existing multilateral and bilateral agreements between the EU and/or its Member States and the US, as well as future agreements, and which in no way can be considered as a legal basis for data sharing in itself;
76. Expresses its belief that this agreement should fully and in its entirety comply with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and European data protection standards;

### *The external agenda*

77. Criticises that following the establishment of the European External Action Service, the programming of the external actions became much less transparent; calls on the HR/VC to present to the European Parliament from next year on in parallel to the Work Programme of the Commission the policy agenda for the Common and Security Policy;
78. Notes with concern that 2010 has shown that there is no improvement in democratic scrutiny and prior consultation of the European Parliament on external actions of the EU; calls on the HR/VR to improve cooperation with the Parliament;

### *International trade*

79. Notes the intention of the Commission to present a communication on trade and development; insists that the main objectives of the EU's international trade policy should be to contribute to sustainable social and economic development in the interest of all citizens - based on fair trade and economic development in correspondence with highest levels of health and environmental standards, job creation, social standards and human rights; calls on the Commission to observe its obligation to guarantee the coherence of the EU's international trade policies with the above mentioned objectives sharing responsibility in the fight against climate change and poverty eradication;
80. The creation of decent jobs and the protection of industrialization that allows for the highest levels of health and environmental standards must be an integral part of a sustainable EU trade policy; stresses therefore that these issues must be addressed and included in trade agreements;
81. Stresses the importance of including strongly worded sustainability chapters in all trade agreements negotiated in 2011 and the years thereafter; stresses the importance of respecting all ILO standards; calls for the suspension of trade agreements with countries violating basic democratic, human and labour rights;
82. Deplores that current international trade negotiations and agreements almost exclusively focus on aspects of competitiveness with the United States and the improvement of European businesses' and investors' position on the global market; expects that the intended Commission's communication on SME support in markets outside the EU must be implemented in line with the EU's international trade policies;
83. Notes the Commission's announcement to present a legislative proposal on the access of third country companies and goods to the EU public procurement market; is concerned that this could seriously undermine policy space to channel public spending to SMEs and to poorer regions and to promote decent pay and high environmental and working conditions in public procurement contracts; is concerned that this legislative proposal stems from deals on public procurement provisions made by the Commission in the context of recent or currently negotiated free trade agreements;
84. Welcomes that the Commission will finally present the much delayed revised regulation

applying the scheme of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP); insists that the new regulation must implement the European Parliament's demands as adopted in the Markov report on June 5th 2008, in particular with regard to transparency and democratic control, revised rules of origin and complementary technical assistance;

#### *Development policy*

85. Welcomes the fact that the effectiveness of development assistance is a key objective in the work programme of the Commission 2011; recalls that this is only feasible by enhancing the coherence of all EU policies and if the Union takes account of development objectives in the implementation of policies that are likely to affect developing countries;
86. Deplores the fact, that there is no indication on how the Commission is planning to redress the situation of the serious decline in the contribution to ODA by the EU and its Member States, to ensure that, regardless of the impact of the financial crisis, Europe stays on track to reach the 0.7% GDI by 2015;
87. Denounces the EPAs that have entered into force to date; calls for the establishment of a new mandate focusing on development in the negotiations on EPAs based on solidarity, and the establishment of mechanisms to protect local and regional markets for the benefit of local producers; asks the Commission to make every effort to ensure that this new mandate does not allow any blackmailing on development assistance, no pressure either in terms of time or cost and that it respects the sovereign equality of ACP countries;

#### *Disaster response*

88. Welcomes the intention to strengthen the EU's civil protection capacity; calls in this regard on the Member States and the Commission to understand disaster response as a strictly civilian task and to conduct it accordingly; insists that disasters must not lead to the use or deployment of military force, either inside or outside the EU; instead, the necessary resources should be provided for civil protection forces so that they can handle the task appropriately and alone;

#### *Smart regulation*

89. Underlines that the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality are key principles of primary law and, in areas where the EU does not have sole legislative power, must be respected at all costs; these principles are essential to legitimising the appropriateness and scope of EU action, in so far as they enable the National Parliaments to exercise their own legislative powers, in order to respect popular sovereignty and guarantee legal security;
90. Deplores the use of soft law by the Commission where it is a surrogate for legislation; warns that the smart regulation agenda should not be subverted in order to allow the EU executive effectively to legislate by means of soft-law instruments, thereby potentially undermining the democratic order, avoiding the involvement of the elected European Parliament and National Parliaments, as well as legal review by the Court of Justice and

depriving citizens of legal remedies;

91. Voices doubts as to the appropriateness of encouraging self-regulation and co-regulation, which would encourage only pressure groups and powerful players on the economic stage;

*Review of the budget*

92. Considers that a clear and transparent presentation of the European Union's budget is an absolute necessity with regard to the need to communicate to European citizens on how EU money is spent and how it should face its' new competences; deplores that the Commission's proposals for the budget review does not prioritize social cohesion and foster integration in view of the needs set by the effects of the current social, economic and financial crisis; advocates the need to establish coherence between political priorities and budgetary priorities;
93. Reiterates its strong criticism of the Budget review presented by the Commission; deplores that it does not prioritize nor provide the means to finance real convergence, the policies to fight high levels of unemployment, to eradicate poverty and social exclusion, to achieve gender equality, equity and equality for all; to support research, innovation and education policies as well as all policies and programs which create and promote employment;
94. Underlines that the European Parliament must be fully involved in the budget review process as well as on the new MFF process, both on the definition of expenditure and revenue;
95. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.