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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Commission

pursuant to Rule 35(3) of the Rules of Procedure and the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission

on the Commission Work Programme for 2013
(2012/2688(RSP))

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on behalf of the PPE Group

**European Parliament resolution on the Commission Work Programme for 2013
(2012/2688(RSP))**

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission Communication on the Commission Work Programme for 2012 (COM(2011)0777),
 - having regard to having regard to the last Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, notably its annex 4,
 - having regard to Rule 35(3) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas political priorities should be matched with the available financial resources;
- B. whereas European policy and action hand to hand with Member states in accordance with the subsidiarity principle can and must have a real influence in helping citizens anticipate and react to a rapidly changing society;
- C. whereas Europe must be committed to the model of the social market economy ensuring sustainable growth in order to provide the next generation with jobs instead of debts;
1. Considers that the EU is facing a crucial time requiring strong and relevant decisions and calls on the Commission, while planning its legislative work, to show more reactivity and flexibility to respond faster to the grave consequences of the crisis met by the EU citizens in their day by day life;
 2. Strongly believes that the EU needs fiscal stability for growth, and growth for stability and prosperity and therefore that the crisis can only be tackled if the Commission fully works both sides of this coin in order to restore credibility, to boost investments and to generate growth;
 3. Underlines that structural reforms in the Member States are crucial and unavoidable to enhance competitiveness and innovation, to reduce red-tape for both citizens and business, especially SMEs, and to promote social convergence based on a loyal dialogue among social partners;
 4. Calls on the Commission to lay out in detail the ‘European Growth Commitments’ within the European Semester and the needed structural reforms; believes that the European Semester must be the occasion for each Member State to account for its own commitments regarding the EU2020 Strategy, the Euro Plus Pact, and other major EU objectives;
 5. Asks the Commission to fully exploit all the tools and competences provided by the new framework (‘Six Pack’) to restore confidence in the EU economy; deems further legislative proposals not necessary at this moment in this field; reiterates, however, its call for achieving a single external representation framework for the euro area;

6. Reiterates its call for a strong EU-wide cohesion policy post-2013 and for the preparations for that future cohesion policy to streamline existing funds and programmes, ensure adequate financial resources and align the policy with the objectives of the EU2020 Strategy, while creating added value via synergies with other internal policies, towards growth and competitiveness; expects the Commission to play a constructive mediating role throughout the procedures relating to the adoption of regulations covering cohesion policy, respecting the principle of co-decision, with a view to reaching an agreement in the legislative procedure as early as possible in order to prevent unfortunate delays and effectively overcome inherent start-up difficulties that might arise in the implementation of cohesion policy operational programmes for the next programming period;
7. Expresses its conviction of the possibility of finding, in an appropriate manner, common ground for the EU cohesion and research and development policies, which ought to be targeted towards growth and competitiveness, while based both on the principles of economic, social and territorial cohesion as well as excellence ('stairway to excellence');

BUILDING A EUROPE OF STABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Financial sector reform

8. Insists on the need to regulate entities intimately linked to the banking systems and providing similar functions but not subject to the same regulation ('shadow banking');
9. Strongly believes that it is urgent to establish an integrated European Banking System with a view to fully exploiting the advantages of an EU-wide financial market to the benefit of consumers and users;
10. Outlines the increasing importance of the level 2 measures when introducing reforms to the financial services regulatory framework; demands from the Commission full respect and loyalty when adopting level 2 measures of the Directives and Regulations adopted through the ordinary legislative procedure;

Financing the future: Securing sustainable public revenue

11. Urges the Commission to follow constantly the actual need for payment appropriation during the implementation of the budget 2013; this payment needs result not only from past commitments but also from the actual implementation of programmes that is expected to reach in 2013, the last year of the current MFF, a cruising speed; warns on the possibly detrimental consequences for growth, competitiveness, research and cohesion in case of a lack of payment appropriation; strongly encourages the Commission to tackle all upcoming payment appropriation problems in due time by a proposal of an amending budget;
12. In anticipation of a successful conclusion of the MFF negotiations by the end of 2012, urges the Commission to put in place the necessary measures for the legal adoption and entry into force of the new MFF 2014-2020; puts particular emphasis on the issue of own resources and asks the Commission to place as a matter of priority the need for a follow up to the imminent political agreement of the Council on the reform of the own resources system, which forms a necessary condition for an overall agreement on the MFF, taking

into account the clear and strong commitment of the European Parliament on this matter; moreover, urges strongly the Commission to do its utmost to facilitate the speedy adoption of the Multiannual Programmes 2014-2020, which will allow for the necessary preparations to be put in place to ensure their actual implementation as early as possible in the next programming period;

BUILDING A UNION OF SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND SOLIDARITY

Single market for growth

13. Calls for a binding calendar for enforcing the Single Market legislation and abolishing obstacles to the free circulation of goods, services, persons and capital;
14. Recalls the importance of intellectual property rights for the economic growth and creative potential of Europe ; welcomes the envisaged communication setting out the future priorities in the area of European company law, and expects a codification enabling a more transparent and efficient use of this part of the *acquis*;
15. Underlines that a well functioning Digital Single Market can unlock Europe's growth and employment potential especially for young people; calls for 'light' procedures in the digital market that allow for quick adapting to technological developments and innovation; insists on the need to have a safe and perceptive system to enhance trust between consumers and businesses in order to consolidate and promote e-commerce; calls for a particular focus dedicated to SMEs and micro-enterprises, ensuring that the barriers for developing cross-border commercial activities are properly tackled; welcomes the Commission's initiatives on alternative dispute mechanisms that will ensure safe trading relations, especially online;
16. Underlines the importance of better Governance in the Single Market and requests the Commission to enforce the inter-institutional commitment to better lawmaking; calls on the Commission to renew not only its targets for administrative simplification, but also to focus the second edition of the Single Market Act on sharpening the instruments to ensure the implementation and enforcement of the existing Single Market *acquis*; reminds that the Commission needs to be given the possibility of 'fast track infringement procedures' to enforce the Single Market *acquis*;
17. Calls on the Commission to draw up a comprehensive fourth Railway Package as announced in early 2011, addressing unbundling, opening of the internal railway market, corridor issues, interoperability by strengthening the role of the Railway Agency and a stronger EU-level coordination of the national regulatory bodies in order to finally achieve the Single European Railway Area; calls on the Commission in urging Member States to speed up the implementation of the Functional Airspace Blocks and to submit and revise their national performance plans for the first reference period (2012-2014) in order to properly meet the EU targets in the key performance areas;

Empowering people in inclusive societies

18. Expresses its dissatisfaction with the umbrella communication of the employment package but expects concrete measures at European level by restructuring the budget to promote

growth and employment, calls for binding targets and timetables in the areas of youth mobility, languages skills and youth entrepreneurship in order to fight the high youth unemployment and expects concrete measures for the labour market reform and the establishment of social standards, so that the ‘flexicurity’ approach can be concrete implemented in the Member States;

Paving a path to a sustainable future

19. Welcomes the Commission’s plans to come forward with concrete policy suggestions for 2030 energy and climate targets; reminds that a more ambitious target on renewable energy will only be feasible if its realisation goes along with a radical modernisation of the grid infrastructure and the development of storage and base load facilities; in this context stresses the utmost importance of the accomplishment of the internal energy market by 2014;
20. Welcomes the proposal for Horizon 2020 package providing the future Research and Innovation framework for the EU based on excellence; insists on the priority of widening the participation of industry, in particular SME’s to the benefit of the EU competitiveness; calls on the need to establish greater synergy and complementarity between Horizon 2020 and the structural funds to improve the participation of all the Member States coming at a crucial time and stresses the importance to increase the budget allocated to this policy, as key to achieve growth in the EU;
21. Urges the Commission to present, following its communication on the matter, the results of the public discussion on a prospective proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on the European Union Solidarity Fund and take action for improving its efficiency and reactivity for citizens on the ground;
22. Calls on the Commission to present its proposals concerning the current, 2007-2013 MFF cohesion policy appropriations it claims to be not yet spent; proposes that these might include their further orientation towards the needs of SMEs¹;
23. Agriculture and fisheries policies
 - welcomes the willingness of the Commission in view of the ongoing CAP reform process to foster a strong, sustainable, competitive and fair Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); recalls thereby its position on following a balanced and integrative approach between the introduction of additional environmental measures and the key role of the CAP in safeguarding efficient production in order to ensure the supply of high-quality and at the same time affordable food for EU citizens; underlines the high importance of maintaining the multifunctional role of agriculture by providing a strong budget;
 - welcomes the Commission initiative to propose appropriate measures for a coherent, efficient and, in regard to market requirements, strong EU promotion policy in order to increase the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and to raise awareness of the high-quality of European agricultural products in the EU and globally; calls, especially in the

¹ EP Oral Question to the Commission, 22 May 2012.

context of a more liberalised and globalised market, for a CAP that guarantees the high standards of the European agriculture sector while competing on international stage;

- welcomes the renewal of the European Forest strategy aiming at creating EU-wide framework in order to better coordinate the multiple forestry-related policy initiatives while taking into account at the same time the individual needs of the Member States;
- calls on the Commission to work in close cooperation with the European Parliament for the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) reform package (and all related legislation, including the technical measures framework) to be adopted in a swift and efficient manner before the end of the year and recalls that adequate financial resources shall be allocated; and urges the Commission to ensure that Article 43 (2) TFEU is the legal basis for all its proposals on measures pursuing the objectives of the CFP and that Article 43 (3) TFEU will be strictly interpreted and not used to cover other items than the mere fixing of allocation of fishing opportunities, in particular under the annual TACs and Quotas regulations;

An open Europe for citizens

24. Expresses its satisfaction with the Commission's recent Communication on the implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy, and calls for a legal and technical framework providing a new European approach to combat terrorism and its financing through centralised collection and analysis of financial messaging data;
25. Recalls the importance for Member States to pool their efforts at EU level in order to put in place a common response against cyber crime; recalls the Commission its commitment to make all the arrangements for the configuration of the European Cybercrime Centre to be set up in 2013 and initiate cooperation with the international partners other than the United States, while simultaneously developing capacities for investigation and prosecution of cybercrime;
26. Expresses satisfaction with Commission recent initiatives in the field of civil law such as alternative dispute resolution instruments and Common European Sales Law; encourages the Commission to continue further its efforts in building a European judicial culture by promoting judicial training activities across Europe;
27. Recalls the importance of enabling fluent border crossings and facilitating the entry of bona fide travellers while enhancing security; encourages the Commission in its goal to a further development of integrated Border Management Strategy in a comprehensive way and urges the Commission to submit the proposal for a Regulation to set up the Entry/Exit System (EES) as soon as possible defining clearly the responsibilities of the EES and establishing the conditions, storage and consultation of entry/exit data of third country nationals crossing the EU external borders;

GIVING THE EU AN EFFECTIVE VOICE IN THE WIDER WORLD

28. Foreign affairs

- calls for a new comprehensive approach to the EU foreign policy to create a new

momentum which fulfils the ambitions of the Lisbon Treaty and adapts EU external action to current and future global challenges; welcomes the legislative proposals revising the legal bases for the external financial assistance instruments for 2014-2020; underlines the need to base the programming of the instruments on delegated acts, so as to allow for the EP to fully play its role on an equal footing with the Council;

- calls for a further strengthening of relations between the EEAS, the Commission and the Member States to achieve synergies and thus a more effective and coherent implementation of external action;
- reiterates its support for enlargement; stresses that a full and rigorous compliance with all the Copenhagen criteria and EU integration capacity remain the basis for accession to the EU; recalls the EP commitment to the European future of the Western Balkans countries;
- welcomes the ‘more for more’ principle and the ‘partnership with society’ approach in the new European Neighbourhood Policy and initiatives taken so far in support of consolidating a democratic development in the ‘Arab Spring’ countries and calls for continued support to be flexible enough to take into accounts new developments in the region; calls for timely and effective support to the political and social development of the Eastern Neighbourhood countries, notably in order to achieve the objectives of the Eastern Partnership;

29. International Trade

- underlines that a modern trade policy has to take into account other policy areas, from human rights to industrial policy, for an integrated approach of trade, foreign, development social and environmental policies and has to be based on reciprocal access to the markets; emphasises, in particular the role that an appropriate use of trade policy can play in the fight against poverty outside the EU and, in the specific cases of neighbouring countries ensuring stability at the EU borders; considers therefore that robust international trade, investment and market integration are key drivers of strong sustainable and balanced growth; stresses the importance of open markets and a fair, strong, rules-based trading system; insists on worldwide refrain from protectionist measures as a basic condition for a fair competition, in this context underscores the importance to pursue bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral efforts consistent and supportive of the WTO framework;
- supports the efforts of the Commission in all ongoing bilateral and regional trade negotiations in order to reach a positive outcome for comprehensive and balanced trade agreements in 2013, with a systematic inclusion of a legally binding clause on sustainable development, which would significantly enhance EU trade perspectives and EU companies opportunities worldwide; considers that the EU should reinforce its trade link with the other big economic and political players in the world, in particular US, China and Japan, by using the existing means and instruments of cooperation and expanding them whenever it is possible;

30. Development policy

- regrets that malnutrition kills an estimated 2.6 million children each year and will put, if

unchecked, almost half a billion children at risk of permanent damage in the next 15 years; deplores that only approximately 410 million or around 3.4 % of the total Commission development aid budget of 12 billion Euros per year is currently allocated to direct nutrition intervention; believes that efforts to tackle malnutrition must be multi-disciplinary and engage multiple stakeholders in line with national priorities of affected countries;

- calls on the Commission to set up a dedicated trust fund to address the problem of malnutrition in developing countries and to mobilise the necessary resources to deliver the basic interventions that could prevent the vast majority of malnutrition, especially in the critical 1,000-day window between conception and age 2, which include encouraging breastfeeding to avoid contaminated water, proper introduction of varied foods for infants, fortification of basic staples and vitamin supplementation; believes that such a trust fund would enable the leveraging and pooling of resources from Commission and Member States, and possibly other donors, and would enable better visibility of EU action in saving lives;

SMART REGULATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Smarter spending together

31. Highlights the importance of fitness checks in the Smart Regulation agenda and proposes to the Commission to establish more stringent benchmarks to integrate in an annual monitoring system for better implementation;

32. Calls on the Commission

to closely monitor the use of Financial Engineering Instruments (FEIs) by:

- evaluating the experiences with FEIs in the Cohesion policy for the programming period 2007-2013;
- providing a risk assessment considering different FEIs;
- developing mechanisms to enforce the reporting obligations by Member States;

and to create an effective sanctioning mechanism, so that the Commission can fully assume its responsibility for the implementation of the budget where necessary; this should include the following elements:

- making net reductions the rule for financial corrections imposed by the Commission;
- recovering ineligible expenditure from final beneficiaries as far as possible so that final beneficiaries bear the consequences of ineligible expenditure and not the national taxpayer;
- ensuring that a full range of sanctions (interruptions, suspensions, financial corrections, and penalties) are available, including legal actions if Member States persistently fail to respect their obligations under Article 258 TFEU;

Smarter regulation

33. Calls for cutting the bureaucratic burden by 25 % until 2015; reminds that Member States have a key responsibility, as they often wrongly implement or ‘gold plate’ the EU legislation for a burden amounting to 40 billion euro¹; believes that future legislation must be thoroughly examined before they enter into force, both at EU and at national level, in order to determine the impact on the creation of new jobs and entrepreneurship, i.e. for SMEs and that the SME test must become much more stringent and be fully applied at both EU and national level;
34. Urges the Commission to adapt the *acquis* to the provisions of articles 290 and 291 TFEU as soon as possible and insists on a consistent and Treaty-conform use of the delegated and implementing acts; asks the Commission to make significant progress in the pre-legislative phase by improving the impact assessments;
35. Calls therefore the Commission to put forward the following proposals already mentioned in the CWP for 2012, and to integrate the others in its Work Programme for 2013:
 - still pending proposals in the 2012 CWP, in particular on the crisis resolution mechanism for banks and credit institutions
 - proposals to integrate retail banking
 - legislative proposal on the so called PRIPs (Packaged Retail Investment Products)
 - proposals to integrate retail banking, with a view to fully exploiting the advantages of an EU-wide financial market to the benefit of consumers and users
 - proposals to tackle tax evasion and tax fraud with the accent on VAT but also with measures to tackle tax fraud on direct taxation
 - proposal on the collective management of copyrights
 - revision of the Community Trade Mark Regulation and of the Directive approximating national trade mark laws
 - short-term action on the Fourteenth company law Directive on the cross-border transfer of company seats, insolvency law, corporate governance and statute for a European mutual society
 - mid-term on the Ninth company law Directive on groups of companies – codification of the European company law
 - legislative proposal on basic banking services
 - legislative proposal on the fourth Railway Package
 - review of the SES legislation

¹ Report of the High Level Group of Independent stakeholders regarding bureaucratic burdens.

- revision of the Directive on equal pay
- proposals for work related musculoskeletal disorders, exposure to Carcinogens and Mutagens at work, food for the most deprived persons, supplementary pension rights of portability
- revision of the working time directive
- legislative proposal establishing a European Union action for the European Capitals of Culture post-2019
- proposal on the Consumer information on fuel economy and CO2 emissions of new passenger cars: Proposal for a directive amending directive 1999/94/EC relating to the availability of consumer information on fuel economy and CO2 emissions in respect of the marketing of new passenger cars
- proposal for legislative measures for a comprehensive adaptation strategy for future impacts of climate change, with the aim to develop an appropriate EU adaptation policy framework
- revision of the Tobacco Products Directive concerning the manufacture, presentation and sale
- recast of the Advanced Therapy Directive
- revision of the nuclear safety directive as soon as possible, based on a proper analysis of the stress tests
- proposals on the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) covering the Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) as an annex to the proposal for regulation common provisions on the ERDF, the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the EAFRD and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund covered by the CSF and laying down general provisions on the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006
- results of the public discussion on a prospective proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on the European Union Solidarity Fund and any action aiming at improving efficiency and reactivity on the ground
- proposals concerning the current, 2007-2013 MFF cohesion policy appropriations it claims to be not yet spent
- proposal for a legal and technical framework for a European Terrorist Finance Tracking System (TFTS)
- proposal for a Regulation to set up the Entry/Exit System (EES)
- proposals on mutual recognition of the effects of certain civil status documents, amending proposal to the Rome II Regulation with regard to the law applicable to

rights of the personality/defamation

- proposal on cross-border traffic accidents
- proposal on common EU administrative law
- legislative measures in order to strengthen the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) and guarantee the European security of supply for capabilities in the service of CSDP missions
- proposal on a dedicated trust fund to address the problem of malnutrition in developing countries and to mobilise the necessary resources to deliver the basic interventions that could prevent the vast majority of malnutrition
- proposal for a modification of the Regulation 2004/2003 to provide political parties established at EU level with legal personality under EU law and to create a new title in the Financial Regulation devoted solely and tailored specifically to the funding of European parties and foundations;

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