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## MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Rule 110(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on combating youth unemployment  
(2013/2673(RSP))

**Nadja Hirsch, Hannu Takkula**  
on behalf of the ALDE Group

**European Parliament resolution on combating youth unemployment  
(2013/2673(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the Commission communication of 20 December 2011 entitled ‘Youth Opportunities Initiative’ (COM(2011)0933),
  - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2013 on a Youth Guarantee (text adopted, P7\_TA(2013)0016)),
  - having regard to the question for oral answer to the Commission and the accompanying resolution of Parliament of 24 May 2012 on the Youth Opportunities Initiative<sup>1</sup> ,
  - having regard to the Commission communication of 5 December 2012 entitled ‘Moving Youth into Employment’ (COM(2012)727),
  - having regard to its resolution of 14 March 2013 on the integration of migrants, its effects on the labour market and the external dimension of social security coordination<sup>2</sup> ,
  - having regard to Rule 110(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in January 2013 23 % of active young people were jobless, with the rates ranging from 9 % or less in Austria and Germany to over 55 % in Greece and Spain, indicating marked geographical differences;
- B. whereas 8.3 million Europeans under the age of 25 are neither in employment nor in education or training (NEETs); whereas these figures continue to rise, posing the risk of a lost generation;
- C. whereas the economic impact of young people not in education, employment or training was estimated at a loss of EUR 153 billion in 2011, corresponding to 1.2 % of EU GDP ; whereas this represents a serious social and economic burden;
- D. whereas 15 % of children leave school without completing secondary education, and 10 % of EU citizens are living in jobless households;
- E. whereas young people with a migrant background are at greater risk of exiting the education and training system without having obtained an upper secondary qualification;
- F. whereas having a decent job is a real protection against poverty;
- G. whereas active labour market policies and activation strategies are key to help unemployed find a decent job;

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, P7\_TA-(2012)0224.

<sup>2</sup> P7\_TA-PROV(2013)0092.

- H. whereas individual and adequate guidance when looking for a decent job are key to improve the chances for success;
  - I. whereas despite high overall levels of youth unemployment, certain sectors such as the ICT and health sectors have increasing difficulty filling vacancies with qualified personnel;
  - J. whereas an increasing gap between the qualifications of graduates and the skills requirements of the labour market can be observed in some Member States;
  - K. whereas by virtue of their emphasis on practical skills, the dual system of vocational training and the combined academic-vocational degree courses employed in some Member States have proved their worth during the crisis in particular, keeping levels of youth unemployment lower by making young people more employable;
  - L. whereas open educational resources improve the quality, accessibility and equity of education and facilitate an interactive, creative, flexible and personalised learning process through the use of ICT and new technologies; whereas open education enhances sustained employability by supporting lifelong learning;
  - M. whereas geographical mismatches between the supply and demand of jobs and skills can be observed both within and between Member States;
1. Insists that the solution to the urgent problem of youth unemployment lies in an improvement of the overall economic environment; believes that reforms of markets are necessary, such as a strengthening of the internal market of services, and that trade agreements and making it easier to set up businesses are key in a growing economy where jobs are created; special measures focussed on youth are important but the key remains to ensure that the EU relies on a strong, competitive and modern economy;
  2. Stresses that investment in youth employment must be a key component of national investment strategies;
  3. Calls on the Member States, in the light of the urgent social situation facing the EU, to increase the level of investment in quality vocational training and apprenticeship to prepare young people for the process of social and professional integration;
  4. Urges the Member States to take strong measures to fight youth unemployment, in particular through preventive action against early dropout from school or from training or apprenticeship schemes (e.g. by implanting a dual educational system or other equally efficient types of framework), and to develop comprehensive strategies for young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs);
  5. Stresses that social investment in favour of NEETs would reduce the present loss to the economy caused by the disengagement of young people from the labour market, which is estimated by Eurofound to amount to EUR 153 billion, or 1.2 % of EU GDP;
  6. Underlines the need to ensuring appropriate resources for social investment, including the allocation of a fixed amount of 25 % of cohesion policy funding to the ESF;

7. Calls on the European Commission to actively ask for support and initiatives as well as other forms of cooperation with the private sector in tackling youth unemployment;
8. Welcomes short and medium-term investments such as the Youth Employment Initiative, while drawing attention to the lack of any long-term structural measures and the absence of necessary reform to enable education systems in certain Member States rise to future challenges with a view to ensuring employability;
9. Welcomes the proposed successor to the Progress Microfinance Facility included in the Programme for Social Change and Innovation for the period 2014-2020 as a valuable instrument to facilitate self-employment by young people;
10. Stresses the need for Member States to improve support for self-employment among young people; calls on them to eliminate red tape, introduce favourable tax policies, establish a more favourable climate for private investments and address disproportionately punitive bankruptcy laws;
11. Notes that social investment in youth may take a wide range of forms, including: developing partnerships between schools, training centres and local or regional businesses; providing targeted quality training and high-quality youth internship programmes; vocational schemes in cooperation with enterprises; senior employee sponsorship schemes aimed at the recruitment and training of young persons on the job or at securing a better transition from education to work; encouraging young people's participation in society; and promoting regional, European and international mobility, by means of further progress towards the mutual recognition of qualifications and skills;
12. Calls on the Commission to collect success stories from the field of youth training and to publish them in the form of a handbook for use by other Member States;
13. Urges Member States to coordinate their strategies and find common solutions to the problem of youth unemployment, both as in some geographical areas it can be best tackled by joint cross-border measures but also as the unemployment level constitutes a challenge to the EU economy as a whole;
14. Emphasises that the dual vocational training system and twin-track studies, with their focus on practical experience, have stood the test of the economic crisis particularly well, helping to reduce youth unemployment by making people more employable, and calls, therefore, on crisis-hit Member States to reform their training systems along these lines;
15. Urges Member States to share successful and best practice;
16. Calls on the Commission to produce an annual report on the reform of vocational training systems in the Member States, thereby making a long-term structural contribution to improving young people's employability;
17. Calls on the Commission and Member States to develop clear objectives and indicators for the Youth Guarantee Scheme, in order to be able to effectively measure and evaluate the impact of this initiative;

18. Stresses however that the Youth Guarantee Scheme cannot replace structural efforts and reforms which must make the education systems and labour markets in some Member States fit for the challenges of the future;
19. Calls, as a matter of urgency, for the frontloading of the EUR 6 billion allocated for the new Youth Employment Initiative in the first years of the Multiannual Financial Framework in order to address youth unemployment and implement youth guarantees; stresses that the costs of implementing youth guarantees across the Eurozone are estimated at EUR 21 billion by the ILO; welcomes the extension of the eligibility group for the youth guarantee to those aged under 30;
20. Calls on the Commission and Member States to further improve the transparency and recognition of qualifications within the Union, in particular through the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training, Europass and the European Qualifications Framework; stresses the importance of timely implementation and reporting on the implementation of these initiatives;
21. Urges Member States to remove existing barriers for cross-border apprenticeships, traineeships and internships to better match supply and demand of work-based training opportunities for youths, thereby improving mobility and employability, particularly in border regions;
22. Stresses the need to enhance the coordination of national social security systems, in order to facilitate and encourage student mobility and mobility of employed or unemployed young people;
23. Recognises already successful cases but urges for more sector initiatives for improving the match of needed future labour force and the young unemployed in that representatives for specific sectors best know what their future needs are in terms of skills and training;
24. Welcomes EU youth mobility initiatives such as the German MobiPro, which is a proof of national efforts that provides a solution to problems in several Member States at the same time;
25. Calls on the Member States to improve cooperation between businesses and the educational sector at all levels, with a scope of better linking curricula to the demands of the labour market, for example by extending Sector Skills Alliances and Knowledge Alliances; stresses that more flexible curricula are needed in order to better adapt to future labour market developments;
26. Underlines the importance for young people to acquire transversal skills such as ICT skills, leadership skills, critical thinking and language skills, also by studying abroad, to improve their prospects on the job market, their adaptability to future labour market developments and their active participation in society;
27. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.