



Plenary sitting

B9-0236/2023

5.5.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

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

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on a roadmap towards a social Europe – two years after the Porto Social Summit

(2023/2586(RSP))

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B9-0236/2023

European Parliament resolution on a roadmap towards a social Europe – two years after the Porto Social Summit (2023/2586(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR), solemnly proclaimed by Parliament, the Council and the Commission on 17 November 2017,
 - having regard to the non-paper by Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands and Sweden ahead of the Porto Social Summit¹,
 - having regard to the Porto declaration of the European Council of 8 May 2021,
 - having regard to the alternative motion for a European Parliament resolution towards a common European action on care of 5 July 2022,
 - having regard to the Stockholm Declaration of the Council of Presidents of BusinessEurope of 24-25 November 2022,
 - having regard to the European Court of Auditors Special Report 28/2022 of 14 December 2022,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas sustainable development is a fundamental objective of the EU; whereas the three pillars of sustainable development are the economic, the social and the environmental; whereas sustainable development is based, among other things, on full employment, social progress and fairness; whereas this is a fundamental objective of the EU, as laid down in Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union;
- B. whereas the EPSR was proclaimed in 2017 in Gothenburg, setting out 20 principles; whereas at the Porto Social Summit in May 2021, the Council committed to three headline targets for 2030 on employment, training and poverty; whereas at least 78 % of the population between 20 and 64 years old should be in employment by 2030; whereas at least 60 % of all adults should participate in training every year; whereas the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million by 2030;
- C. whereas the headline targets set out by the Commission have been implemented by the Member States for a year; whereas five Member States have reached their national targets on employment, and half of the Member States have surpassed the 78 % target on employment, whereas ongoing crises increasingly affecting European competitiveness should be taken into account with a view to refocusing the targets set in

¹ <https://www.permanentrepresentations.nl/documents/publications/2021/04/23/social-summit-non-paper>.

2021 to relieve the pressure on Member States to achieve them by 2030²;

- D. whereas European Court of Auditors Special Report 28/2022 of 14 December 2022 states that that, despite indications that the Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) scheme saved thousands of jobs, its contribution to mitigating unemployment cannot be fully assessed because there is not enough hard data;
- E. whereas inflation at EU level has increased the cost of living for median-income households by around 10 %, the incidence of material and social deprivation by around 2 % and the rate of energy poverty and absolute monetary poverty by around 5 %; whereas in selected Member States and among vulnerable groups, the corresponding welfare effects are expected to be several times higher; whereas this is likely to widen existing gaps in poverty and social exclusion across the EU³; whereas in view of the US Inflation Reduction Act, but also other similar investment plans from other third countries, Europe needs a new vision to become an innovative industrial location by 2050 instead of burdening companies and citizens with guidelines, bans and regulations;
- F. whereas it is an error to transform social policy and the fair rights of workers into a socialising or socialist model; whereas societies prosper through the moderation of public taxes;
1. Reiterates the importance of the conclusions of the 2021 Porto Social Summit, which underline that we are still living in unprecedented times; notes that COVID-19 and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine on the EU's doorstep have exacerbated the cost of living and energy crises, which are hitting the most vulnerable groups in our society the hardest, leading to increasing inequalities;
 2. Calls on the Member States to take the necessary labour reforms to foster job stability and reduce the unemployment rate; calls, therefore, on the Commission, the Member States and EU social partners to work towards a higher collective bargaining coverage, with a view to improving living and working conditions in the EU, which will contribute to upward social convergence and reduce in-work poverty, social exclusion and unequal opportunities;
 3. Welcomes the recent announcement by the Commission that it will present concrete proposals to reduce the regulatory administrative burden by 25 % by autumn this year, which will have positive socioeconomic impacts and benefits for companies and citizens alike (young people in training, founders and innovators, small and medium-sized enterprises, self-employed people and employees);
 4. Calls on the Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of SURE as a temporary crisis instrument;
 5. Calls on the Commission to respect the principle of subsidiarity, the specificities of national social protection systems and the competences of the Member States;

² European Commission, '[Commission welcomes Member States' targets for a more social Europe by 2030](#)', 16 June 2022.

³ Menyhert, B., [The effect of rising energy and consumer prices on household finances, poverty and social exclusion in the EU](#), Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022.

welcomes the Commission's commitment to presenting a proposal, by the end of 2023, on the creation of an EU disability card to be recognised in all Member States; welcomes the ongoing negotiations of the social partners on the right to disconnect; calls on the Commission to analyse the convenience of creating a European social security pass to provide national authorities such as labour and social security inspectorates, and social partners involved in labour and social security inspections with a real-time instrument to effectively enforce national and EU law;

6. Welcomes the European Year of Skills; highlights the importance of access to training and reskilling of workers and stresses the role of social partners in skills strategies, to ensure that such training takes place without wage cuts, as well as to provide detailed information on the skills needed;
7. Stresses the importance of a demographic strategy that supports the birth rate, as a necessary basis for social sustainability and social progress;
8. Stresses the importance of family as the bedrock for social progress and the basis of any sustainable social policy;
9. Is highly concerned about the overall erosion in the EU of middle-income groups due to economic policy and adverse labour market developments; calls on the Commission and the Member States, with those developments in mind, to develop coordinated action plans to increase the size of and consolidate middle-income groups;
10. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to occupational health and safety in the workplace;
11. Recalls that principle 11 of the EPSR on childcare and support to children requires respect for their families; encourages the Member States to tackle child poverty as a priority; reminds the Commission and the Member States to monitor the implementation of the European Child Guarantee;
12. Warns that, in alignment with principle 12 of the EPSR, climate policy and the adaptation of our societies towards environmental neutrality needs to respect social protection;
13. Highlights that in line with principle 15 of the EPSR, everyone in old age has the right to resources that ensure a life of dignity and that workers and the self-employed in retirement have the right to a pension commensurate with their contributions and that ensures an adequate income; believes that, in parallel, Member States should ensure long-term income security and that minimum pensions are high enough; reiterates its call on the Commission and the Member States to take measures to reinforce national social protection systems to ensure a life of dignity for all while preserving these systems' sustainability;
14. Highlights that, according to principle 19 of the EPSR, access to social housing or housing assistance of good quality should be provided for those in need; considers that a policy to fight homelessness requires the construction of social housing and affordable apartments and measures that ensure homeless people have access to these forms of housing; calls, moreover, on the Member States to develop preventive policies with

early warning measures to prevent people from becoming homeless; is of the opinion that illegal migration from third countries is a very significant structural driver of homelessness; encourages the Member States to pursue a strict and robust migration and asylum policy; considers that the fight against homelessness also requires good labour market policy and measures aimed at reducing poverty; calls on the Member States to provide for accommodation centres that are specifically adapted to the needs of homeless women; considers that the Finnish example has demonstrated that a ‘housing first’ policy and strategy is the most suitable tool to help re-integrate long-term homeless people with complex personal situations, alcohol or drug problems or mental illnesses;

15. Expresses its concern about the lack of access to essential services (principle 20 of the EPSR), which have come under additional stress;
16. Reiterates the importance of a well-functioning and efficient European Labour Authority and looks forward to its evaluation due on 1 August 2024;
17. Reiterates the right to obtain human intervention as well as the right not to be subject to a decision made solely by automated processing, as stated in the General Data Protection Regulation⁴; stresses the need for EU actions to further incorporate the ‘human in control’ principle anchor in the world of work;
18. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1.