

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

2008/0267(COD)

3.3.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
(COM(2008)0867 – C6-0518/2008 – 2008/0267(COD))

Rapporteur: Mia De Vits

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The draftsman is, in general terms, in favour of the proposal of the European Commission to adapt Regulation 1927/2006 on the globalisation fund. Given the massive number of redundancies in the real economy recently due to the financial crisis, this adapted proposal could be an important instrument for assisting and helping to retrain the workers of the specific industrial sectors affected by the crisis. Indeed, as shown by the recent experiences, the interventions by the instrument of the EGF get positive results.

In order to increase these positive results, the draftsman is in favour of the main changes of the Commission's proposal, like the extension of the scope of the Regulation for a limited period, the extension of the co-financing system as well as the most broad possible explication of the measures the Member States have to adopt with the resources of the EGF; and the extension to 24 months of the duration of EGF support to leave sufficient time for the measures to be effective in re-integrating particularly the most vulnerable workers into new jobs.

However, some modifications and clarifications still should be added in order to increase the legal security.

AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following amendments in its report:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 2

Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006

Article 2 – paragraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) at least 500 redundancies over a period of **four months** in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers made redundant in its suppliers or downstream producers, or

Amendment

(a) at least 500 redundancies over a period of **six months** in an enterprise in a Member State, including workers made redundant in its suppliers or downstream producers, or

Justification

By extending the 4 months period with 2 months, the amendment allows to take the negative effects of the crisis more into account.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 2

Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006

Article 2 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

For the purposes of calculating the number of redundancies provided for in points (a), (b) and (c) of the first paragraph, **a redundancy may** be counted from the moment of either the employer's individual notice to terminate the contract of employment of the redundant worker, or the de facto termination of a contract of employment before its expiry for reasons not related to the individual worker concerned. In each case, either of the two options must be chosen and specified in the application.

Amendment

For the purposes of calculating the number of redundancies provided for in points (a), (b) and (c) of the first paragraph, **all types of redundancy shall be taken into account and shall** be counted from the moment of either the employer's individual notice to terminate the contract of employment of the redundant worker, or the de facto termination of a contract of employment before its expiry for reasons not related to the individual worker concerned. In each case, either of the two options must be chosen and specified in the application.

Justification

The notion of redundancies should be interpreted in a broad way. Also temporary contracts should be taken on board.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation – amending act

Article 1 – point 5

Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006

Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The Commission shall, on the basis of the assessment carried out in accordance with Article 5(5), particularly taking into account the number of workers to be supported, the proposed actions and the estimated costs, evaluate and propose as quickly as possible the amount of financial contribution, if any, that may be made within the limits of the resources available. The amount may not exceed 75% of the total of the estimated cost referred to in

Amendment

1. The Commission shall, on the basis of the assessment carried out in accordance with Article 5(5), particularly taking into account the number of workers to be supported, the proposed actions and the estimated costs, evaluate and propose as quickly as possible, **and, in any event within the three months**, the amount of financial contribution, if any, that may be made within the limits of the resources available. The amount may not exceed

Article 5(2)(d).

75% of the total of the estimated cost referred to in Article 5(2)(d). ***The amount may be as high as 75 % of the total estimated costs if the Member State is able to justify that the proposed actions will accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy and the creation of environmentally friendly jobs.***

Justification

By adding explicitly the period, Member States can be ensured to have access to the financial contribution in the fastest way. As confirmed in the European recovery plan, the strategic aim is to speed up the shift towards a low carbon economy and to create green collar jobs.

Amendment 4

**Proposal for a regulation – amending act
Article 1 a (new)**

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

Article 1a

Transitional provisions

This Regulation shall be applicable to all the requests that have been introduced to the Commission from 1 January 2009. The Commission shall review the existing conventions with the Member States concerned in order to verify that they comply with this Regulation.

Justification

For reasons of legal certainty, a clear point has to be made in order to clarify from which moment on the new dispositions will be applicable.

PROCEDURE

Title	Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006 on establishing the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund
References	COM(2008)0867 – C6-0518/2008 – 2008/0267(COD)
Committee responsible	EMPL
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	ECON 15.1.2009
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Mia De Vits 14.1.2009
Discussed in committee	11.2.2009
Date adopted	2.3.2009
Result of final vote	+: 27 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Mariela Velichkova Baeva, Paolo Bartolozzi, Zsolt László Becsey, Pervenche Berès, Sharon Bowles, Manuel António dos Santos, Elisa Ferreira, José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Jean-Paul Gauzès, Donata Gottardi, Gunnar Hökmark, Karsten Friedrich Hoppenstedt, Sophia in 't Veld, Gay Mitchell, Sirpa Pietikäinen, John Purvis, Eoin Ryan, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Olle Schmidt, Margarita Starkevičiūtė
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Mia De Vits, Harald Ettl, Werner Langen, Klaus-Heiner Lehne, Gianni Pittella
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	Françoise Castex, Hans-Peter Mayer