20.6.2018

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Regional Development


Rapporteur for opinion (*): Roberto Gualtieri

(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure
AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Regional Development, as the committee responsible, to take into account the following amendments:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation
Recital -1 (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1) In order to achieve the objectives of the Union, as set out in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union, Member States are required to consider their economic policy as a matter of common concern and to coordinate it within the Union.

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation
Recital -1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1a) The Union policies, actions and instruments are to promote economic, social and territorial cohesion.

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation
Recital -1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1b) In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union needs to take into account, including through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and the high level of education,
training and protection of human health.

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation
Recital -1 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(-1c) The Union is required to support Member States, upon their request, to improve their administrative capacity to implement Union law.

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1

Text proposed by the Commission

(1) The Structural Reform Support Programme (‘the Programme’) was established with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Member States to prepare and implement growth-sustaining administrative and structural reforms, including through assistance for the efficient and effective use of the Union funds. Support under the Programme is provided by the Commission, upon request by a Member State, and can cover a wide range of policy areas. Developing resilient economies built on strong economic and social structures, which allow Member States to efficiently absorb shocks and swiftly recover from them, contributes to economic and social cohesion. The implementation of institutional, administrative and growth-sustaining structural reforms is an appropriate tool for achieving such a development.

(1) The Structural Reform Support Programme (‘the Programme’) has the objective of strengthening the capacity of Member States to prepare and implement economic and administrative reforms aimed at promoting robust and sustainable growth, quality job creation, social and territorial cohesion and convergence, competitiveness, productivity and shared prosperity, and enhanced resilience to shocks, including through assistance for the efficient and effective use of the Union funds. Support under the Programme is provided by the Commission, upon request by a Member State, and can cover a wide range of policy areas in line with National Reform Programmes.
Amendment 6
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(1a) Successful implementation of structural reforms requires political will, decisiveness, efficient and effective public administration and the support from all segments of society. It is therefore important that structural reforms are backed through the involvement of economic and social partners and other relevant stakeholders, and by democratic support via national and, where appropriate, regional parliaments.

Amendment 7
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(1b) Preference should be given to measures that have synergistic effects on other sectors and that are aimed at, inter alia, achieving high and long-term sustainable growth, recovery and convergence in the Union, fighting tax fraud, evasion and avoidance, promoting higher quality employment and implementing social policies. Those structural reforms should be consistent with and linked to the objectives set out in the European Semester and the implementation of the country-specific recommendations in the Member States. Structural reforms should include the correct and timely transposition and implementation of legal acts of the Union as the proper functioning of these acts is fundamental to achieve economic convergence.
Amendment 8
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 1 c (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(1c) The euro is the currency of the European Union, as indicated in Article 119(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Amendment 9
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2

Text proposed by the Commission

(2) Member States have increasingly taken up support under the Programme, beyond the initial expectations. The requests for support received by the Commission during the 2017 cycle have, based on their estimated value, significantly exceeded the available annual allocation. During the 2018 cycle, the estimated value of requests received was five times the financial resources available for that year. Almost all Member States have requested support under the Programme and requests are distributed across all policy areas covered by the Programme.

Amendment 10
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 2 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

(2a) The presentation and transparency of the Programme results should be increased by making an overview of implementation of reforms in each
Member State publicly available online, in order to ensure exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices among Member States.

Amendment 11
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) Strengthening economic and social cohesion by reinforcing structural reforms is crucial for successful participation in the Economic and Monetary Union. That is particularly important for Member States whose currency is not the euro, in their preparation to join the euro area.

Amendment

(3) Strengthening economic and social cohesion, including by reinforcing socially balanced, environmentally sustainable and growth-friendly structural reforms is crucial for successful participation in the Economic and Monetary Union and its long-term stability and prosperity. That is particularly important for Member States whose currency is not the euro, in their preparation to join the euro area.

Amendment 12
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) It is thus appropriate to stress in the general objective of the Programme – within its contribution towards responding to economic and social challenges – that enhancing cohesion, competitiveness, productivity, sustainable growth, and job creation should also contribute to the preparations for future participation in the euro area by those Member States whose currency is not the euro.

Amendment

(4) It is thus appropriate to stress in the general objective of the Programme – within its contribution towards responding to economic and social challenges – that enhancing cohesion, competitiveness, productivity, sustainable growth, and quality job creation should also contribute to the preparations for future participation in the euro area by those Member States whose currency is not the euro. A thorough ex-post evaluation of how the Programme has assisted structural reforms in Member States is a necessary part of that general objective.
Amendment 13
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 5

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(5) It is also necessary to indicate that actions and activities of the Programme may support reforms that *may* help Member States that *wish to* adopt the euro to prepare for participation in the euro area.

*Amendment*

(5) It is also necessary to indicate that actions and activities of the Programme may support reforms that *can* help Member States *with the current derogation to the participation to the third phase of the EMU* that *wish to* adopt the euro to prepare for participation in the euro area.

Amendment 14
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 6

*Text proposed by the Commission*

(6) In order to meet the growing demand for support from Member States, and in view of the need to support the implementation of structural reforms in Member States whose currency is not the euro, the financial allocation for the Programme should be increased to a sufficient level that allows the Union to provide support that meets the needs of the requesting Member States.

*Amendment*

(6) In order to meet the growing demand for support from Member States, and in view of the need to support the implementation of structural reforms in Member States whose currency is not the euro, the financial allocation for the Programme should be increased to a sufficient level that allows the Union to provide support that meets the needs of the requesting Member States. *Such an increase should not take place through redeployments of existing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), but should be financed by the mobilisation of the special instruments as provided for in Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020. Member States should not be obliged to transfer their national and regional ESIF allocations with a view to filling the financing gap of the Programme.*
Amendment 15
Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) In order to provide support with the least possible delay, the Commission should be able to use part of the financial envelope also to cover the cost of activities supporting the Programme, such as expenses related to quality control and monitoring of projects on the ground.

Amendment

(7) In order to provide support with the least possible delay, the Commission should be able to use part of the financial envelope also to cover the cost of activities supporting the Programme, such as expenses related to quality control, monitoring, and evaluation of projects on the ground.

Amendment 16
Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 1
Regulation (EU) No 2017/825
Article 4 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

The general objective of the Programme shall be to contribute to institutional, administrative and growth-sustaining structural reforms in the Member States by providing support to national authorities for measures aimed at reforming and strengthening institutions, governance, public administration, and economic and social sectors in response to economic and social challenges, with a view to enhancing cohesion, competitiveness, productivity, sustainable growth, job creation, and investment, which will also prepare for participation in the euro area, in particular in the context of economic governance processes, including through assistance for the efficient, effective and transparent use of the Union funds.”;

Amendment

The general objective of the Programme shall be to provide support to national, regional and local authorities for administrative and economic reform and measures aimed at reforming and strengthening institutions, governance, public administration, economic and social sectors, and addressing economic and social challenges, with a view to promoting and enhancing sustainable growth, environmental sustainability, social protection, job creation and investment, competitiveness, productivity, territorial and social cohesion, convergence and shared prosperity, resilience to shocks. That support may include also assistance for the efficient, effective and transparent use of the Union funds as well as for the correct and timely transposition and implementation of legal acts of the Union. Through these goals the Programme will also prepare for participation in the euro area, in particular
in the context of economic governance processes.”;

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation
Article 1 – paragraph 1 – point 3 – point a
Regulation (EU) No 2017/825
Article 10 – paragraph 1

Text proposed by the Commission

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme is set at EUR 222 800 000 in current prices.

Amendment

1. The financial envelope for the implementation of the Programme is set at EUR 222 800 000 in current prices. Such an increase shall not take place through redeployments of existing European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF), but shall be financed by the mobilisation of the special instruments as provided for in Council Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1311/2013 of 2 December 2013 laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2014-2020.
## PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Increase of the financial envelope of the Structural Reform Support Programme and adapt its general objective</th>
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<td>14.12.2017</td>
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<td>Rapporteur</td>
<td>Roberto Gualtieri</td>
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<td>Date appointed</td>
<td>24.4.2018</td>
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<td>4.6.2018 18.6.2018</td>
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| Result of final vote | +: 40  
| | –: 14  
| | 0: 1 |
| Members present for the final vote | Gerolf Annemans, Burkhard Balz, Hugues Bayet, Pervenche Berès, David Coburn, Esther de Lange, Markus Ferber, Jonás Fernández, Sven Giegold, Neena Gill, Roberto Gualtieri, Brian Hayes, Gunnar Hökmark, Cătălin Sorin Ivan, Petr Ježek, Barbara Kappel, Georgios Kyritsos, Philippe Lamberts, Werner Langen, Olle Ludvigsson, Ivana Maletić, Fulvio Martusciello, Gabriel Mato, Alex Mayer, Bernard Monot, Caroline Nagtegaal, Luděk Niedermayer, Stanisław Ożóg, Sirpa Pietikäinen, Anne Sander, Alfred Sant, Martin Schirdewan, Pedro Silva Pereira, Peter Simon, Theodor Dumitru Stolojan, Kay Swinburne, Paul Tang, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Ernest Urtasun, Marco Valli, Miguel Viegas, Jakob von Weizsäcker, Marco Zanni |
| Substitutes present for the final vote | Andrea Cozzolino, Ashley Fox, Doru-Claudian Frunzulică, Syed Kamall, Alain Lamassoure, Thomas Mann, Luigi Morgano, Michel Reimon, Joachim Starbatty |
| Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote | Jens Gieseke, Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz, Rupert Matthews |
### FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE ASKED FOR OPINION

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Key to symbols:
+ : in favour
- : against
0 : abstention