



2015/0263(COD)

29.6.2016

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Regional Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the
period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU)
No 1305/2013
(COM(2015)0701 – C8-0373/2015 – 2015/0263(COD))

Rapporteur: Costas Mavrides

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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 3

Text proposed by the Commission

(3) Several Member States have been undergoing and continue to undergo adjustment processes to correct macroeconomic imbalances accumulated in the past and many are facing the challenge of low potential growth. The Union has identified the implementation of structural reforms among its policy priorities to set the recovery on a sustainable path, unlock the growth potential to strengthen the adjustment capacity, and support the process of convergence.

Amendment

(3) Several Member States have been undergoing and continue to undergo adjustment processes to correct macroeconomic imbalances accumulated in the past and many are facing the challenge of low potential growth ***and lack of investment***. The Union has identified the ***need for the*** implementation of ***growth friendly*** structural reforms among its policy priorities to set the recovery on a sustainable path, unlock the growth potential to strengthen the adjustment capacity, ***increase investment*** and support the process of convergence. ***The European Semester should be viewed as a tool to support Member States in their reform agenda decided upon at national level.***

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 4

Text proposed by the Commission

(4) Reforms are by their very nature complex processes that require a complete chain of highly-specialised knowledge and skills. Addressing structural reforms in a variety of public policy areas is challenging since their benefits often take

Amendment

(4) Reforms are by their very nature complex processes that require a complete chain of highly-specialised knowledge and skills. Addressing structural reforms in a variety of public policy areas is challenging since their benefits often take

time to materialise. Therefore, early and efficient design and implementation is crucial, ***be it*** for crisis-struck or structurally-weak economies. In this context, the provision of support by the Union in the form of technical assistance has been crucial in supporting the economic adjustment of Greece and Cyprus in the last years.

time to materialise. Therefore, early and efficient design and implementation is crucial, ***including*** for crisis-struck or structurally-weak economies. In this context, the provision of support by the Union in the form of technical assistance has been crucial in supporting the economic adjustment of Greece and Cyprus in the last years. ***Ownership of structural reforms by Member States, including local and regional authorities and the social partners, is essential for the Structural Reform Support Programme ('the Programme') to be successful.***

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 5

Text proposed by the Commission

(5) Member States may benefit from support in addressing challenges as regards the design and implementation of structural reforms. These challenges may be dependent on various factors, including limited administrative and institutional capacity or inadequate application and implementation of Union legislation.

Amendment

(5) Member States may benefit from support in addressing challenges as regards the design and implementation of ***growth friendly*** structural reforms. These challenges may be dependent on various factors, including ***the inadequate design of reforms***, limited administrative and institutional capacity or inadequate application and implementation of Union legislation.

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation Recital 6

Text proposed by the Commission

(6) The Union has a long-lasting experience on providing specific support to national administrations and other authorities of Member States as regards capacity building and similar actions in certain sectors (e.g. taxation, customs, support to small and medium-sized enterprises) and in relation to the implementation of cohesion policy. The experience gained by the Union in assisting national authorities carrying out reforms should be used in order to enhance the capacity of the Union to provide support to Member States. Comprehensive and integrated action is indeed necessary in order to provide support to those Member States that are undertaking **growth-enhancing** reforms and request assistance from the Union in this respect.

Amendment

(6) The Union has a long-lasting experience on providing specific support to national administrations and other authorities of Member States as regards capacity building and similar actions in certain sectors (e.g. taxation, customs, support to small and medium-sized enterprises) and in relation to the implementation of cohesion policy. The experience gained by the Union in assisting national authorities **designing and** carrying out reforms should be used in order to enhance the capacity of the Union to provide support to Member States. Comprehensive and integrated action is indeed necessary in order to provide support to those Member States that are undertaking reforms **to enhance sustainable growth, social well-being, and the accessibility of healthcare and education** and request assistance from the Union in this respect, **while respecting each Member State's institutional framework and also involving all stakeholders.**

Or. en

Amendment 5

**Proposal for a regulation
Recital 7**

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) Against this background, it is necessary to establish a Structural Reform Support Programme ('the Programme') with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Member States to prepare and implement growth-enhancing administrative and structural reforms, including through assistance for the

Amendment

(7) Against this background, it is necessary to establish a Structural Reform Support Programme ('the Programme') with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Member States to prepare and implement growth-enhancing administrative and structural reforms, including through assistance for the

efficient and effective use of the Union funds. The Programme is intended to contribute to the achievement of common goals towards obtaining economic recovery, job creation, boosting Europe's competitiveness and stimulating investment in the real economy.

efficient and effective use of the Union funds. The Programme is intended to contribute to the achievement of common goals towards obtaining ***social inclusion***, economic recovery, ***quality*** job creation, boosting Europe's ***cohesion and*** competitiveness and stimulating investment in the real economy. ***The Programme is not intended as an incentive mechanism but as a support for Member States in their reform agenda.***

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 8

Text proposed by the Commission

(8) Support under the Programme should be provided by the Commission upon request by a Member State, in areas such as budget and taxation, public function, institutional and administrative reforms, the justice system, anti-fraud, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, business environment, private sector development, investment, competition, public procurement, privatization processes, access to finance, investment, trade, sustainable development, innovation, education and training, labour policies, public health, asylum, migration policies, agriculture and rural development and financial sector policies.

Amendment

(8) Support under the Programme should be provided by the Commission upon request by a Member State, in areas such as budget and taxation, public function, institutional and administrative reforms, the justice system, anti-fraud, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering, business environment, private sector development, investment, competition, public procurement, privatization ***or (re-)nationalisation or (re-)municipalisation*** processes, access to finance, investment, trade, sustainable development, innovation, education and training, labour policies, public health, asylum, migration policies, agriculture and rural development and financial sector policies.

Or. en

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) Member States should be able to request support from the Commission under the Programme in relation to the implementation of reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular **of** Country Specific Recommendations in the context of the European Semester, to actions related to the implementation of Union law, as well as in relation to the implementation of economic adjustment programmes. They should also be able to request support in relation to reforms undertaken at their own initiative, in order to achieve sustainable investment, growth and job creation.

Amendment

(9) Member States should be able to request support from the Commission under the Programme in relation to the implementation of reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular **to improve the investment climate through use of European Fund for Strategic Investment (EFSI), implement** Country Specific Recommendations in the context of the European Semester, to actions related to the implementation of Union law, as well as in relation to the implementation of economic adjustment programmes. They should also be able to request support in relation to reforms undertaken at their own initiative, in order to achieve sustainable investment, growth and job creation, **territorial cohesion and social inclusion.**

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) Further to a dialogue with the requesting Member State, **including in the context of the European Semester**, the Commission should analyse the request, taking into account the principles of transparency, equal treatment and sound financial management and determine the support to be provided based on urgency, breadth and depth of the problems as

Amendment

(10) Further to a dialogue with the requesting Member State, the Commission should analyse the request, taking into account the principles of transparency, **respect for social partners**, equal treatment and sound financial management and determine the support to be provided based on urgency, breadth and depth of the problems as identified, support needs in

identified, support needs in respect of the policy areas envisaged, analysis of socioeconomic indicators, and the general administrative capacity of the Member State. The Commission should also, in close cooperation with the Member State concerned, identify the priority areas, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the global financial contribution for such support, taking into account the existing actions and measures financed by Union funds or other Union programmes.

respect of the policy areas envisaged, analysis of socioeconomic indicators, and the general administrative capacity of the Member State. The Commission should also, in close cooperation with the Member State concerned, identify the priority areas, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the global financial contribution for such support, taking into account the existing actions and measures financed by Union funds or other Union programmes.

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation Recital 11

Text proposed by the Commission

(11) The Commission Communications ‘The EU Budget Review’¹ and ‘A budget for Europe 2020’² underline the importance of focusing funding on activities with clear European added value, i.e. where the Union intervention can bring additional value compared to action of Member States alone. Against this background, the support actions carried out under the Programme should ensure complementarity and synergy with other programmes and policies at national, Union and international level. The actions under the Programme should allow elaborating and implementing solutions that address national challenges which have impact on cross-border or Union-wide challenges and achieve a consistent and coherent implementation of Union law. In addition, they should contribute to further develop trust and promote cooperation with the Commission and among Member States. Moreover, the Union is in a better position

Amendment

(11) The Commission Communications ‘The EU Budget Review’¹ and ‘A budget for Europe 2020’² underline the importance of focusing funding on activities with clear European added value, i.e. where the Union intervention can bring additional value compared to action of Member States alone. Against this background, the support actions carried out under the Programme should ensure complementarity and synergy with other programmes and policies at national, Union and international level. The actions under the Programme should allow elaborating and implementing solutions that address national challenges which have impact on cross-border or Union-wide challenges and achieve a consistent and coherent implementation of Union law. In addition, they should contribute to further develop trust *of citizens in the European project* and promote cooperation with the Commission and among Member States.

than Member States to provide a platform for the provision and sharing of good practices from peers as well as to mobilise expertise.

COM(2010)700 of 19 October 2010.

² COM(2011)500 final of 29 June 2011.

Moreover, the Union is in a better position than Member States to provide a platform for the provision and sharing of good practices from peers as well as to mobilise expertise, ***so that proposals are able to be tailored to the specific situation in the requesting Member States.***

COM(2010)700 of 19 October 2010.

² COM(2011)500 final of 29 June 2011.

Or. en

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 15

Text proposed by the Commission

(15) This Regulation should be implemented in compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the European Union. The Commission should adopt multi-annual work programmes that set out the ***political*** objectives pursued, the expected results of the support and the funding priorities in the respective policy areas. Those elements should be further specified in annual work programmes adopted by implementing acts.

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002

Amendment

(15) This Regulation should be implemented in compliance with Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ on the financial rules applicable to the annual budget of the European Union. The Commission should adopt multi-annual work programmes that set out the ***social and economic*** objectives pursued, the expected results of the support and the funding priorities in the respective policy areas. Those elements should be further specified in annual work programmes adopted by implementing acts.

Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002

Or. en

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation Recital 20

Text proposed by the Commission

(20) To facilitate the evaluation of the Programme, a proper framework for monitoring the results achieved by the Programme should be put in place from the very beginning. A mid-term evaluation looking at the achievement of the objectives of the Programme, its efficiency and its added value at the European level should be carried out. A final evaluation should, in addition, deal with the long-term impact and the sustainability effects of the Programme. Those evaluations should be based on the indicators, measuring the effects of the Programme.

Amendment

(20) To facilitate the evaluation of the Programme, a proper framework for monitoring the results achieved by the Programme should be put in place from the very beginning. A mid-term evaluation looking at the achievement of the objectives of the Programme, its efficiency and its added value at the European level should be carried out. A final evaluation should, in addition, deal with the long-term impact and the sustainability effects of the Programme. Those evaluations should be based on the indicators, ***including social indicators***, measuring the effects of the Programme.

Or. en

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation Recital 23 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(23a) Since the Programme is considered to be a pilot programme, its financing through the transfer of funds allocated to technical assistance under the European Structural and Investment Funds cannot be a permanent structural solution. If the Programme becomes

permanent in the future, it would be necessary to consider establishing a fund of own resources to support structural reforms.

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation Article 4

Text proposed by the Commission

The general objective of the Programme shall be to **contribute to** institutional, administrative and structural reforms in the Member States by providing support to national authorities for measures aimed at reforming institutions, governance, administration, **economic and social sectors** in response to economic and social challenges with a view to enhancing competitiveness, growth, jobs, and investment, **in particular in the context of economic governance processes**, including through assistance for the efficient and effective use of the Union funds.

Amendment

The general objective of the Programme shall be to **support Member States in boosting growth investment and the creation of quality employment through** institutional, administrative and **growth friendly** structural reforms in the Member States by providing support to national authorities for measures aimed at reforming **and strengthening or establishing** institutions, governance, administration in response to economic and social challenges with a view to **preserving the European social model and** enhancing **cohesion, equal opportunities**, competitiveness, **sustainable** growth, jobs, and investment, including through assistance for the efficient and effective use of the Union funds.

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

1. To achieve the general objective set

Amendment

1. To achieve the general objective set

out in Article 4, the Programme shall have the following specific objectives:

out in Article 4, the Programme shall have the following specific objectives ***that shall be pursued in close cooperation with beneficiary Member States:***

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) to assist the initiatives of national authorities to design ***their*** reforms according to priorities, ***taking into account initial conditions and expected socio-economic impacts;***

Amendment

(a) to assist the initiatives of national authorities to design ***growth friendly*** reforms according to ***their*** priorities ***that aim at improving economic effectiveness and social cohesion;***

Or. en

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 1 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) to assist the national authorities to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources management, where appropriate, through definition of clear responsibilities and increase of professional knowledge and skills.

Amendment

(d) to assist the national authorities to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of ***social dialogue and*** human resources management, where appropriate, through definition of clear responsibilities and increase of professional knowledge and skills.

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 1 – subparagraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

These objectives shall be pursued in close cooperation with Beneficiary Member States

Amendment

These objectives shall be pursued in close cooperation with Beneficiary Member States ***and with due respect to Member States priorities and in line with national practices and traditions for social dialogue and collective agreements;***

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

2. The specific objectives set out in paragraph 1 shall refer to policy areas related to competitiveness, growth, jobs and investment, in particular to the following:

Amendment

2. The specific objectives set out in paragraph 1 shall refer to policy areas related to ***social cohesion, equal opportunities***, competitiveness, ***sustainable*** growth, jobs and investment, in particular to the following:

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) institutional reform and efficient and service-oriented functioning of public administration, effective rule of law, reform of the justice system and reinforcement of anti-fraud, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering;

Amendment

(b) institutional reform and efficient and service-oriented functioning of public administration ***fostering public goods***, effective rule of law, reform of the justice system and reinforcement of anti-fraud, anti-corruption and anti-money laundering ***as well as policies aiming at combating tax evasion;***

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) business environment, private sector development, investment, privatization processes, trade and foreign direct investment, competition and public procurement, sustainable sectoral development and support for innovation;

Amendment

(c) business environment, private sector development, investment, privatization ***or (re-)nationalisation or (re-)municipalisation*** processes, trade and foreign direct investment, competition and public procurement, sustainable sectoral development and support for innovation;

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation

Article 5 – paragraph 2 – point d

Text proposed by the Commission

(d) education and training, labour market policies, social inclusion, social security and social welfare systems, public health and healthcare systems, asylum, migration and borders policies;

Amendment

(d) education and training, labour market policies ***improving both access to and quality of jobs***, social inclusion ***and combating poverty***, social security and social welfare systems, public health and healthcare systems, asylum, migration and borders policies;

Or. en

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 2

Text proposed by the Commission

2. Taking into account the principles of transparency, equal treatment and sound financial management, further to a dialogue with the Member State, including in the context of the European Semester, the Commission shall analyse the request for support referred to in paragraph 1 based on the urgency, breadth and depth of the problems identified, support needs in respect of the policy areas concerned, analysis of socioeconomic indicators and general administrative capacity of the Member State. Taking into account the existing actions and measures financed by Union funds or other Union programmes, the Commission in close cooperation with the Member State concerned shall identify the priority areas for support, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the global financial contribution for such support.

Amendment

2. Taking into account the principles of transparency, equal treatment, ***respect for social partners*** and sound financial management, further to a dialogue with the Member State, including in the context of the European Semester, the Commission shall analyse the request for support referred to in paragraph 1 based on the urgency, breadth and depth of the problems identified, support needs in respect of the policy areas concerned, analysis of socioeconomic indicators and general administrative capacity of the Member State. Taking into account the existing actions and measures financed by Union funds or other Union programmes, ***in particular European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and EFSI***, the Commission in close cooperation with the Member State concerned shall identify the priority areas for support, the scope of the support measures to be provided and the global financial contribution for such support.

Or. en

Amendment 23

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 3 – point a

Text proposed by the Commission

(a) the implementation of reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular of the relevant Country Specific Recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester or of relevant actions related to the implementation of Union law;

Amendment

(a) the implementation of reforms in the context of economic governance processes, in particular of the relevant Country Specific Recommendations issued in the context of the European Semester or of relevant actions related to the implementation of Union law, ***aiming in particular at economic growth, quality job creation, social cohesion, equal opportunities, combating poverty and fair competition***;

Amendment 24

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 3 – point b

Text proposed by the Commission

(b) the implementation of economic adjustment programmes for Member States that receive Union financial assistance under existing instruments, in particular in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ for the euro area Member States and Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002² for non-euro area Member States;

Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the strengthening of economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States in the euro area experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (OJ L 140, 27.5.2013, p. 1).

² Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 of 18 February 2002 establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for Member States' balances of payments (OJ L 53, 23.2.2002, p. 1).

Amendment

(b) the implementation of economic adjustment programmes for Member States that receive Union financial assistance under existing instruments, in particular in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ for the euro area Member States and Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002² for non-euro area Member States; ***the implementation shall aim in particular at economic growth, quality job creation, social cohesion, equal opportunities and combating poverty;***

Regulation (EU) No 472/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013 on the strengthening of economic and budgetary surveillance of Member States in the euro area experiencing or threatened with serious difficulties with respect to their financial stability (OJ L 140, 27.5.2013, p. 1).

² Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 of 18 February 2002 establishing a facility providing medium-term financial assistance for Member States' balances of payments (OJ L 53, 23.2.2002, p. 1).

Amendment 25

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 3 – point c

Text proposed by the Commission

(c) the implementation of reforms by Member States, undertaken at their own initiative, notably to achieve sustainable investment, growth and job creation.

Amendment

(c) the implementation of reforms by Member States, undertaken at their own initiative, notably to achieve sustainable investment, growth and quality job creation, ***in particular through ESIF and EFSI.***

Or. en

Amendment 26

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council, justifying individually all its decisions to refuse to grant support to Member States.

Or. en