

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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2009

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

2008/2063(INI)

29.5.2008

OPINION

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

on Parliament's new role and responsibilities implementing the Treaty of
Lisbon
(2008/2063(INI))

Draftsman (*): Jan Andersson

(*): Procedure with associated committees – Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Constitutional Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. Whereas, with a view to preparing a report on Parliament's potential new role and responsibilities for implementing the Treaty of Lisbon, the Committee on Constitutional Affairs asked all parliamentary committees to answer two questions included in a working document prepared by that Committee,
- B. Whereas the chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs asked the political groups for comments on those two questions and availed himself of the contributions provided by the secretariat of that Committee,
 1. Points out, as regards the question concerning the political priorities of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs with regard to the use of Parliament's increased democratic responsibilities as provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon, that, as shown in its working document of 9 April 2008 on Modifications introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon of interest to the EMPL committee, relatively few changes which affect the powers of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs conferred under Annex VI of the Rules of Procedure will be introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon;
 2. Considers, therefore, that the use of Parliament's increased democratic responsibilities as provided for in the Treaty of Lisbon will have only a marginal effect compared to the current state of play as regards both the competences concerning and the management of dossiers by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs;
 3. Stresses that the Treaty of Lisbon provides for further progress on social Europe and for strengthened social legislation on the basis of the binding character of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, whilst noting that some Member States have 'opt-outs' from the binding nature of the Charter, and of a more systematic definition, in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union, as amended, of the values underpinning the European Union's actions and main aims;
 4. Underlines, in addition, the importance of the horizontal social clause in Article 9 of the Treaty on European Union, as amended, which will act as a general principle of the European Union's policy making;
 5. Welcomes, in particular, Article 16 of the EC Treaty, as amended, and the Protocol to the Treaty of Lisbon on Services of General Interest, which provide a clear legal basis for the definition of Member States' responsibilities as regards the provision of universally accessible and high-quality public services to users;
 6. Welcomes the fact that legislation prohibiting discrimination will become subject to the codecision procedure;
 7. Points out, as regards the question how the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

envisages coping with the transition from consultation to codecision in legislative procedures and with other procedural changes, that there are only three legislative proposals currently being examined, which will be affected by the changes introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon; points out that those three proposals all concern the coordination of social security and are based on Articles 42 and 308 of the EC Treaty:

- a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems (COM(2006)0016 – C6 0037/2006 – 2006/0006(COD));
- a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems, and determining the content of Annex XI (COM(2006)0007 – C6 0029/2006 – 2006/0008(COD)); and
- a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending the annexes to Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems (COM(2007)0376 – C6 0204/2007 – 2007/0129(COD));

points out that the second and third proposals referred to will be merged and adopted as a single legislative act;

8. Points out that the only change introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon to the three legislative proposals referred to above will be that, as regards their adoption, voting in the Council will take place on the basis of qualified majority rather than unanimity, subject to the procedure provided for in Article 42 of the EC Treaty, as amended.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	29.5.2008
Result of final vote	+: 33 -: 2 0: 2
Members present for the final vote	Jan Andersson, Edit Bauer, Philip Bushill-Matthews, Alejandro Cercas, Derek Roland Clark, Luigi Cocilovo, Jean Louis Cottigny, Jan Cremers, Harald Ettl, Richard Falbr, Roger Helmer, Stephen Hughes, Jan Jerzy Kułakowski, Jean Lambert, Bernard Lehideux, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Maria Matsouka, Elisabeth Morin, Juan Andrés Naranjo Escobar, Csaba Óry, Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Rovana Plumb, Jacek Protasiewicz, Bilyana Ilieva Raeva, José Albino Silva Peneda, Jean Spautz, Gabriele Stauner, Ewa Tomaszewska, Anne Van Lancker, Gabriele Zimmer
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Françoise Castex, Gabriela Crețu, Sepp Kustatscher, Roberto Musacchio, Ria Oomen-Ruijten, Csaba Sógor, Tatjana Ždanoka