



2022/2170(INI)

4.5.2023

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on job creation – the just transition and impact investments
(2022/2170(INI))

Rapporteur for opinion: Matthias Ecke

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

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

1. Believes that the EU's cohesion policy funds aimed at territorial, economic and social cohesion are crucial for supporting the transition towards climate neutrality while guaranteeing high-quality employment opportunities in the regions;
2. Welcomes the concept of a 'just transition', considering it a unique principle that must permeate all aspects of the transition to climate neutrality; notes that an ambitious, comprehensive just transition is needed to address the unintended distributional effects of the green transition, such as greater regional inequalities; highlights that the Just Transition Fund (JTF) is a key cohesion policy instrument supporting regions impacted by the transition towards a net-zero economy and suggests expanding and broadening the JTF's scope to include other industrial sectors and regions;
3. Believes that social impact investment (SII) is no substitute for public social spending; notes, however, that SII can complement cohesion funds in tackling the challenges encountered on the path towards climate neutrality, provided it has a measurable social effect on inclusion, equality and employment; underlines that any adjustment of the legal, regulatory and economic framework for SII must meet these requirements;
4. Notes that the green transition has a strong gender dimension, with women tending to be under-represented in green jobs and men tending to be more affected by the disappearance of carbon-intensive jobs; underlines, therefore, the need for a gender perspective when designing and implementing all transition policies to avoid deepening the divides within local labour markets;
5. Remains convinced that a just transition has the potential to not only convert the EU into a successful net-zero economy, but also make it a global model for this existentially necessary transformation; highlights that cohesion policy is an essential tool on the path towards a net-zero economy and believes that the debate on the future of EU cohesion policy, including funding for 2028-2035, must be guided by the need to assist the Member States on this path.