DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Questions for Oral Answer B9-0001/2020 and B9-0002/2020

pursuant to Rule 136(5) of the Rules of Procedure

on proposal for a Council Recommendation on a bridge to jobs - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2020/0001(RSP))

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová
on behalf of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
European Parliament resolution on proposal for a Council Recommendation on a bridge to jobs - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (2020/0001(RSP))

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union and to Articles 145, 147 and 149 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

– having regard to the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) proclaimed by the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission in November 2017, and in particular its principle 4 ‘Active support to employment’,


– having regard to Regulation (EU) 2015/779 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2015 amending Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013, as regards an additional initial prefinancing amount paid to operational programmes supported by the Youth Employment Initiative²,

– having regard to Council Decision (EU) 2019/1181 of 8 July 2019 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States³,

– having regard to Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee⁴,

– having regard to the European Court of Auditors (ECA) Special reports No 3/2015 entitled ‘EU Youth Guarantee: first steps taken but implementation risks ahead’, No 17/2015 entitled ‘Commission’s support of youth action teams: redirection of ESF funding achieved, but insufficient focus on results’ and No 5/2017 entitled ‘Youth unemployment – have EU policies made a difference? An assessment of the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative’,

– having regard to the Commission communication of 1 July 2020 entitled ‘Youth employment support: a bridge to jobs for the next generation’ (COM(2020) 276),

– having regard to the Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on a bridge to jobs - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and replacing Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee (COM(2020) 277)) and to the accompanying Commission staff working document (SWD(2020) 124)),

having regard to the Commission communication of 4 October 2016 entitled ‘The Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative three years on’ (COM(2016) 646) and to the accompanying Commission staff working document (SWD(2016) 323),

– having regard to its resolution of 18 January 2018 on the implementation of the Youth Employment Initiative in the Member States,

– having regard to its resolution of 24 October 2017 on control of spending and monitoring of EU Youth Guarantee schemes’ cost-effectiveness,

– having regard to its resolution of 16 January 2013 on a Youth Guarantee,

– having regard to the questions on reinforcing the Youth Guarantee to the Commission (O-000001/2020 – B9 0001/2020) and to the Council (O-000002/2020 – B9 0002/2020),

– having regard to Rules 136(5) and 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

– having regard to the motion for a resolution of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,

A. whereas, since its establishment in 2013, the Youth Guarantee has created opportunities and has helped over 24 million young people find employment, continued education, apprenticeships and traineeships; whereas, before the COVID-19 crisis, the youth unemployment rate (15-24) stood at 14.9 % on average compared to its peak of 24.4 % in 2013; whereas the Youth Guarantee is recognised to have given impetus to the implementation of structural reforms in public employment services and education systems in the Member States;

B. whereas the fight against youth unemployment is a political priority which is shared by Parliament, the Commission and the Member States, and which contributes to achieving the Union’s objective of sustainable growth and high-quality jobs;

C. whereas in her political priorities, the Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has declared that she would turn the Youth Guarantee into a permanent instrument to fight youth unemployment and that it should have an increased budget and regular reporting to ensure it delivers what it promises in every Member State;

D. whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an unprecedented economic and social crisis as a result of which unemployment rates in the EU are rising and millions of people risk losing their jobs; whereas as of April 2020 youth unemployment stood at 15.7 % across the EU, a number that is expected to rise sharply; whereas the 2008 crisis has hit young people the hardest; whereas high youth unemployment rates are detrimental to the individuals concerned, often leading to so-called ‘scarring effects’, and to society at large and therefore necessitate decisive and targeted policy efforts;

E. whereas the 2019 guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States call on Member States to continue addressing youth unemployment and the issue of young


\[7\] Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0016.
people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) through prevention of early school leaving and structural improvement in the school-to-work transition, including through the full implementation of the Youth Guarantee;

F. whereas the proposal for a Council Recommendation on reinforcing the Youth Guarantee builds on the experience and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Youth Guarantee since 2013, and aims to reach out to an increased number of young people, the age bracket being widened to all people under 30, supporting them in developing skills and gaining work experience, in particular those relevant to the green and digital transitions;

G. whereas for the next programming period 2021-2027, the Youth Guarantee will be financed through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), now encompassing the Youth Employment Initiative which is the main funding programme of the Youth Guarantee; whereas Next Generation EU, through the Recovery and Resilience Facility and REACT-EU will provide additional support for youth employment measures; whereas investments in education and training, which are aligned with the twin digital and green transitions, will be financed by the European Regional Development Fund; whereas Member States, upon request and following the fulfilment of predefined criteria, can obtain resources from the Technical Support Instrument to finance the preparation and implementation stages of structural reforms, among others, in the areas of education and training and labour market policies;

1. Strongly supports the proposal for Council Recommendation on reinforcing the Youth Guarantee and the Commission’s intention to introduce structural improvements based on the lessons learnt from the 2008 financial crisis and the implementation of this instrument;

2. Welcomes the fact that the reinforced Youth Guarantee will cover a wider age bracket to include young people aged 15-29 and that a more individualised and targeted approach will be applied to both temporary NEETs and longer-term NEETs; also welcomes that the reinforced Youth Guarantee will be more inclusive to avoid any form of discrimination, including vulnerable groups, racial and ethnic minorities, young people with disabilities and those living in remote, rural or disadvantaged urban areas;

3. Stresses the fact that NEETs comprise various subgroups with diverse needs to which specifically tailored services should be provided; in this context, highlights the importance of adopting a differentiated approach vis-à-vis longer-term NEETs who often belong to vulnerable groups;

4. Welcomes the recommendation to Member States to strengthen early warning systems with the aim to identify those at risk of becoming NEETs; is convinced that preventive actions, if appropriately conducted, could lead to reduction in the number of NEETs in the longer term;

5. Considers as positive the idea to assess the digital skills of all NEETs who register in the Youth Guarantee as well as the proposal to enhance digital skills with preparatory training and to facilitate upskilling and reskilling towards green skills, entrepreneurial skills and career management skills; highlights that such activities should help to address skills mismatches on the labour market;
6. Urges Member States to ensure that employment offers are aligned to the relevant principles of EPSR ensuring the right to fair and equal treatment regarding working conditions, access to social protection and training, reasonable duration of probation periods and prohibiting abuse of atypical contracts;

7. Demands that the financing for the Youth Guarantee be strengthened for the next programming period 2021-2027; highlights that the amended Commission proposal on ESF+ of 28 May 2020 includes a requirement that Member States having above EU average NEET rates in 2019 shall allocate at least 15 % of their ESF+ resources under shared management to targeted actions and structural reforms to support youth employment, vocational education and training, in particular in the context of implementing Youth Guarantee schemes; is extremely concerned that in its conclusions of 21 July 2020, the European Council significantly reduced this allocation to 10 % which is wholly contradictory to the Union’s ambition to invest in youth;

8. Urges Member States to undertake strong commitment to fully implement the Youth Guarantee; highlights that Union financing complements national budget and does not replace it;

9. Reiterates the necessity for increasing the effective use of the funding; expects that the streamlined programming and implementation rules under ESF+ would lead to reduction of administrative costs of beneficiaries, including simplified reporting arrangements;

10. Insists that the Commission enhances the monitoring of implementation and the reporting on the results;

11. Emphasises that strengthening partnerships between the Youth Guarantee providers and relevant stakeholders, such as employers, education and training institutions, social partners, youth work, providers of solidarity and civic activities, youth organisations and other civil society organisations, is essential to the effective implementation of Youth Guarantee schemes;

12. Is convinced that well-targeted awareness raising campaigns and youth-friendly communication channels could play a decisive role in reaching out to young people and youth organisations and raising the profile of the initiative;

13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the Commission.