

Resolution on Europe 2020

2010/3013(RSP) - 17/02/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution on Europe 2020.

The resolution had been tabled by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/ALE and ECR groups.

It strongly urges the **strengthening of the Community method with regard to the governance structure** of the [Europe 2020 Strategy](#). It reiterates the importance of integrating the EU 2020 goals into the economic governance framework and calls for the European Semester to be part of the legislative governance package, while including national parliaments and social partners at an early stage in order to foster democratic accountability, ownership and legitimacy.

Parliament also wants the **EU budget and national budgets to reflect better the ambitions of the Europe 2020 strategy**. The strategy must close the gap between its declared ambitions, the resources available and the methodology used. It calls for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to reflect the ambitions of the Europe 2020 strategy, and emphasises that Europe 2020 requires reforms and very substantial and early public and private investments in a wide range of projects. The Commission and Member States are asked to produce a **credible funding framework**. Funding Europe 2020 demands a concerted set of policy initiatives, engaging European institutions, such as the EIB and the ERBD. Members emphasise, in addition, that private sector funding will be indispensable and requires legal frameworks that will address the long-term risks involved.

Parliament considers that Member States should be encouraged to give the **highest priority to tackling unemployment and preventing long-term exclusion from the labour market**. These two priorities should be combined with measures to ensure more job creation, better jobs and high levels of high quality employment in the medium and longer term. Members stress the vital role of a holistic approach to the re-launch of the [Single Market Act](#) to ensure better economic performance and a strengthened social dimension while restoring confidence by putting citizens at the heart of the Single Market. They express disappointment that two years after the adoption of the [Small Business Act](#) the Commission is lacking in concrete actions and initiatives. The Commission and the Council are urged to promote a more SME-friendly environment and transparent use of pre-commercial public procurement for innovative and green technologies.

With regard to **flagship initiatives**, Parliament stresses that the current content of the strategy remains of a very general nature, and that this set of initiatives could only be achieved through concrete commitments from Member States in their National Reform Programmes and concrete and consistent legislative proposals.

Flagship ‘Innovation Union: the resolution stresses the need to secure the financing of research, innovation and development in the EU via a **significant increase in relevant expenditure post 2013**. It highlights the lack of funding for crucial instruments for research, innovation and deployment that have already been adopted, and calls for a revised Financial Regulation to facilitate SME applications. Members believe that it is not subsidies that innovative European companies need, but more freedom and **better access to venture capital**.

Flagship ‘Youth on the Move: Parliament calls on all Member States to set up, as part of their National Reform Programmes, a national strategy to tackle youth unemployment and secure young people access to education and training. It strongly supports the proposal for a Council Recommendation on a European Youth Guarantee and urges the Council to adopt it as soon as possible. It also calls for stronger proposals

on inclusion. The Commission is asked to continue to fund existing mobility and youth programmes such as Lifelong Learning (Erasmus, Leonardo, Comenius, Grundtwig), Youth in Action and Marie Curie.

Flagship ‘A digital agenda for Europe: while welcoming the ambitious proposals on the ‘Digital Agenda’, Parliament urges the Commission to speed up the adoption of proposals related to the digital single market, such as e-commerce, intellectual property, trust & security online, roaming and e-authentication.

Flagship ‘Resource-efficient Europe: Parliament urges the Commission to continue its work on formulating concrete policies to ensure a switch to a resource-efficient and renewable-based economy. It calls on the Commission to develop concrete benchmarks and to ensure that agreed targets are met and that they can be monitored within the framework of the Europe 2020 European Semester of policy coordination. Members also underline the urgent need to modernise and upgrade the European energy infrastructure, to develop smart grids and build interconnections, which are necessary for realising the internal energy market, enhancing security of supply, and to meet our energy and climate targets and speed up authorisation procedures.

Flagship ‘An industrial policy for the globalisation era: Parliament calls for a holistic, balanced and forward-looking approach to EU industrial policy, aimed at developing a strong, competitive, coherent, efficient and diversified industrial base and where innovation, research, competition, Single Market, trade and environmental policies are coordinated. Key objectives should be (i) to promote job creation and the international competitiveness of European enterprise; (ii) intelligent restructuring and dialogue with employees; (iii) a sustainable economy; (iv) free choice in technology options and mobility of researchers.

Flagship ‘An agenda for new skills and jobs: whilst highlighting the fact that strong social protection systems prevent long-term exclusion, Parliament insists that investment in active labour market policies, education and training opportunities for all to acquire new skills are essential to reduce unemployment. Members notes that flexicurity has been successfully implemented in certain countries, but warns that flexicurity concepts cannot deploy their potential in Member States with low possibilities of strengthening social protection systems due to budget restrictions and macroeconomic imbalances. Reducing labour market segmentation must be achieved by providing adequate security for workers under all forms of contracts, especially vulnerable groups. The Commission is reminded not to neglect the need to ensure a socially just transition to a more sustainable labour market and the huge potential of sustainable jobs.

Flagship ‘European platform against poverty and social exclusion: Members recall that the Europe 2020 strategy includes a target to lift at least 20 million people who are in, or at risk of, poverty and social exclusion out of this state. They urges the Commission and the Council to ensure full compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the Horizontal Social Clause (Article 9 TFEU) in order to ensure that **all policies contribute to rather than undermine that poverty-reduction goal.** They also call on Member States to be committed to tackling child poverty. Lastly, Parliament reiterates its call for a broader agenda to promote decent work, ensure workers' rights throughout Europe and improve working conditions, tackle inequality and discrimination, and combat in-work poverty.