Preparation of the Commission Work Programme for 2018

2017/2699(RSP) - 05/07/2017

The European Parliament **rejected** a proposal for a European Parliament resolution on the Commission's work programme for 2018.

The motion for a resolution was tabled by the EPP, ECR and ALDE groups.

The draft resolution called on the Commission to determine key priority actions aimed at **strengthening the EU's industrial competitiveness** by enabling companies to compete in domestic and global markets and reinforcing the capacity of the EU and its Member States to support the development of businesses, paying special attention to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It stressed that **European industrial modernisation** must be wide-ranging and should include the marketing of innovative products and services.

(1) On a general level, Members stressed the need to:

- create a comprehensive approach to realise the benefits of the single currency while ensuring the stability and **completion of Economic and Monetary Union** (EMU) and pursuing the objectives of growth and full employment;
- accelerate the work on the Capital Markets Union to help unleash investment in the EU;
- establish a mechanism for **fair and effective distribution of asylum seekers** agreed upon in order to improve the European migration policy;
- improve the **common foreign and security policy** in order to contribute to finding credible solutions to emerging security threats and challenges, fighting terrorism, bringing peace, stability, security and order to its neighbourhood;
- **counter protectionist tendencies** worldwide and accelerate ongoing or planned negotiations and continue to examine all possibilities for the conclusion of new free trade agreements;
- organise a **broad public debate** on the future of the Union;
- apply a **zero tolerance** policy in the event of mismanagement or fraud;
- ensure that **EU law is enforced** in all Member States, including competition policy.

(2) On a more specific level, the Commission was invited to undertake a series of initiatives in priority areas such as:

- supporting the Member States on educational actions across all ages and occupational groups and invest in a lifelong learning framework focusing on digital and entrepreneurial skills and competences;
- putting in place mechanisms for greater mobility among young people, including apprentices, to address skills mismatches in the labour market and improve access to job opportunities;
- bringing forward initiatives listed in the Circular Economy Action Plan;
- presenting legislative proposals for the multiannual financial framework (MFF) after 2020 by June 2018 in order to allow substantial interinstitutional negotiations to be launched immediately with a view to successfully concluding negotiations by the end of this Parliament;
- presenting detailed plans to address concerns about future budgetary revenues and own resources;
- giving priority to the legislative proposals contained in the digital single market strategy in the legislative process;

- ensuring that Member States fully implement legislative proposals relating to the Energy Union after their adoption;
- improving the implementation of the Services Directive, including the removal of the remaining regulatory and administrative barriers in this sector;
- presenting an initiative for an EU action plan on how to implement the World Plan of Action to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO);
- simplifying the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), reducing the administrative burden on agricultural entrepreneurs, and allowing for the innovations needed to create a competitive and forward-looking European agricultural sector;
- submitting proposals on the definitive VAT system and VAT rates;
- presenting a European strategy on automation in the labour market;
- adapting legislation on the basis of the conclusions of the dialogue on interoperability, regarding the ways in which existing and future information systems could enhance both external border management and internal security in the EU;
- coming forward with concrete initiatives to address the challenges related to the fight against cross-border cybercrime;
- addressing the root causes of migration by improving EU’s development and cooperation policy with Africa;
- coming forward with complementary, Union-wide measures to combat climate change with a view to the 2018 facilitative dialogue under the Paris Agreement;
- continuing negotiations to achieve concrete results on the trade and investment agreement with the United States;
- fostering transatlantic bonds and confirming the Union's commitment to the Balkans and its eastern and southern neighbourhoods.

The draft resolution also stressed that NATO was the basis of the architecture of European defence and pointed out that the protection of Europe will become a mutually reinforcing responsibility of NATO and the EU as set out in the

Joint Declaration made in Warsaw in July 2016, and, in particular, within the framework of the European Defence Action Plan.