

***European Economic and Social Committee***

***Europe 2020 Steering Committee***

Brussels, 13 April 2015

**INFORMATION NOTE**

on

**Report on European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and social aspects in the AGS 2015 (A8-0043/2015)** [[1]](#footnote-1)

Rapporteur: Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto, Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Policy recommendations

* A need is emphasized for ambitious and responsible economic policies for growth, quality job creation, investment and fighting deflation, based on solidarity.
* A call is made for more flexibility in implementing structural reforms in Member States in dire financial straits, so as to ensure that stability measures are compatible with economic growth, employment creation and the welfare state.
* Restoring SMEs financing and fostering the culture of entrepreneurship is considered vital to boost private investment and job creation.
* In order to increase the efficiency of the use of funds, the CSRs should take into account territorial differentiations within Member States to boost growth and jobs while preserving territorial cohesion.

Remarks on reforms

* Reforms have to be introduced in order to expand growth potential, human capital and productivity.
* A call is made to the EC and the MS to consider innovative ways to encourage investment in the EU, as well as design tailor-made policies to support quality job creation.
* It is stressed that the European Semester should be better aligned with the Europe 2020 strategy.
* Education and active labour policies are seen as crucial to increase human capital.
* Quality jobs and wages should serve as engines of productivity and growth.
* Issues of youth unemployment and labour mobility must be tackled.

Considerations regarding social dimension

* In the light of socioeconomic challenges and risks to EU's sustainability and stable growth potential, it is the time of a decisive call for the EU social dimension and for convergence.
* The importance of European social stabilizers and social indicators is underlined.
* Striving to eradicate poverty and social exclusion must be continued and reflected in a better way in the European Semester.
* The matter of sustainable pensions and health needs to be addressed.
* Fairer labour taxation systems have to be implemented.
* The democratic legitimacy of the European Semester must be strengthened by increasing and structuring involvement of civil society and social partners at EU as well as national level in the European Semester.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Date of issue: 05.03.2015; Institution: European Parliament; Available at: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+REPORT+A8-2015-0043+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)