



5 September 2014,
Brussels

EP: Report on the Draft Report on the European Semester

EU Semester Alliance proposals for Amendments: The elements in red should be deleted and the bits underlined added:

ECON: De Backer report.

12. Supports the objective of placing emphasis on policies that **enhance competitiveness**, support quality job creation, fight unemployment, reduce poverty, promote inclusion and improve the functioning of the labour market;

20. Believes that with regard to the forthcoming European Semester, the policy of growth-friendly fiscal consolidation should be **pursued to improve fiscal sustainability** revised; stresses, **however**, the fact that special emphasis should be placed on growth-enhancing inclusive and socially sustainable reforms and policies that ensure quality job creation, poverty reduction and an environmentally sustainable economy;

21. Encourages Member States to overcome domestic political opposition to modernise their economies, social security systems and health care, in order to avoid placing an excessive burden on persons currently experiencing poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, or future generations;

22. Believes that structural reforms should particularly be targeted at improving labour markets' capacity to integrate young people into the workforce, as well as other excluded groups; believes, also, that structural reform should be aimed at the mid- and long-term sustainability of social security, health-care and pension systems, while ensuring that the number of people experiencing poverty in the short term is drastically reduced, health-care and social security are universally available and pensions are poverty-proofed;

29. Calls on the Commission finally to deliver on its commitment to complete the single market, particularly as regards services, while safeguarding the right to decent, quality work and the principle of equal pay for equal work and access to quality social protection systems and services; urges the Member States to deliver on **their** all commitments on the EU2020 strategy, **particularly with regard to research and innovation**;

34. Stresses the fact that a solid, transparent, accountable and stable financial system is crucial for future growth ensuring fair distribution of the benefits;

The Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester (Semester Alliance) is a broad coalition bringing together major European civil-society organisations and trade unions, representing thousands of member organisations on the ground at European, national and local levels in the European Union. It aims to support progress towards a more democratic, social and sustainable Europe 2020 Strategy, through strengthening civil dialogue engagement in the European Semester at national and EU levels.

ENABLING CIVIL-SOCIETY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SHAPING OF EU POLICIES AND TO CONTRIBUTE TO PROGRESS ON THE TARGETS OF THE EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY CONCERNS US ALL!

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The Semester Alliance is coordinated by the European Anti-Poverty Network



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

EMPL: De Prieto Opinion

3. Is deeply concerned that, up to now, the recommendations made as part of the European Semester have taken us further away from achieving the employment and social targets of the Europe 2020 strategy, with especially the poverty reduction target lagging behind as poverty is increasing rather than decreasing; calls on the new Commission to ask immediately that the Member States report on national progress on the Europe 2020 strategy and its targets and correct this discrepancy in their national reform programmes (NRPs) to be presented as part of the next European Semester and to aim Country Specific Recommendations at poverty reduction in those Member States where more can and should be done in this area;
9. Calls on the new Commission to make the employment recovery a true priority by establishing an ambitious and holistic strategy for quality job creation, and to promote access for excluded groups through integrated active inclusion approaches, which should involve all the new Commissioners; takes the view that, to this end, each Commissioner should draw up a quality employment plan for their specific policy area, including concrete measures, a budget allocation and a calendar for its implementation, also urges the Commission to demand from each Member State a national job plan for decent/quality job creation as promised by Member States at the Spring Council 2012;
32. Reiterates its call for increased and structured involvement of civil society and trade union stakeholders, at EU as well as national level, so as to safeguard the legitimacy and improve the effectiveness of the European Semester process by developing concrete guidelines and monitoring mechanisms; looks forward, in this connection, to the Commission's planned involvement of the social partners in the context of the Social Dialogue Committee prior to the adoption of the 2015 Annual Growth Survey and the improvement of the involvement of civil society at EU level as well as commitment to continue and expand funding for national pilot projects for the involvement of civil society at national level.

Background on the EU Semester Alliance

The EU Alliance for a democratic, social and sustainable Semester¹ is a new alliance of Social, Equality and Green Civil Society organisations. It aims to facilitate joint working at the national and EU level to achieve progress on the smart, sustainable and inclusive, as well as equality, goals of Europe 2020, based on democratic governance and meaningful civil and social dialogue in the European Semester. The Alliance has received one-year project funding from the European Commission under the EaSI programme to build on its previous work as an Adhoc Coalition. The Alliance is coordinated by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and involves the following partners: AGE Platform, Caritas-Europa, CECODHAS, European Environmental Bureau (EEB), EASPD, ETUC, Eurochild, Eurodiaconia, European Women's Lobby (EWL), FEANTSA, European Federation of Food Banks (FEBA), Green Budget Europe, PICUM and the Social Platform.

See <http://semesteralliance.net/> and [Follow us on Twitter #semesteralliance](#)

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¹ Hereafter referred to as the Semester Alliance – for more information see: <http://semesteralliance.net/>