

Portuguese Parliament
European Affairs Committee

OPINION COM(2012)629
European Commission Work Programme 2013

PART I - INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Article 7 of Act No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, amended by Act No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012 governing the monitoring, examination and issuing of opinions by the Assembly of the Republic in the context of the process of EU integration, as well as the methodology for providing scrutiny of EU initiatives approved on 8 January 2013, the European Affairs Committee received the European Commission Work Programme 2013 [COM(2012)629].

The European Commission Work Programme 2013 (hereinafter the ECWP 2013) was sent to all the standing Parliamentary Committees and to the legislative assemblies of the Azores and of Madeira, the majority of which analysed the initiative and adopted the opinions appended to this opinion and which form an integral part thereof.

The ECWP 2013 was discussed on 5 March 2013 at a public hearing organised by the European Affairs Committee. It was attended by European Commission Vice-President, Antonio Tajani, the Deputy State Secretary and State Secretary for European Affairs, Miguel Morais Leitão, members of the Portuguese Parliament, Portuguese members of the European Parliament and members of the legislative assemblies of the Azores and of Madeira.

PART II - GROUNDS

1 The ECWP 2013 states that the absolute imperative is to tackle the economic crisis and put the EU back on the road to sustainable growth. This requires the stable macroeconomic environment which true economic and monetary union can bring. It needs a step change in the economy, to release the many strengths Europe can bring to bear in tomorrow's economy of high innovation and high skills. This demands changes to the business environment in the Single Market; it requires that the huge potential of Europe's networks and of the IT revolution is fully exploited; it calls for new skills and help so that those shut out of the labour market today can make their contribution; and it must be shaped by the needs and opportunities of resource efficiency. These are long-term challenges calling for a concerted effort from all sections of society – but in all cases, the EU contribution is a precondition for success. The 2013 Work Programme sets out the long term vision of what the EU might look like in key policy areas, summarises what is missing today and explains how the Commission will tackle these challenges. It states that, by prioritising the right kind of initiatives, the EU can contribute to growth and job creation and can step by step move closer to its longer term vision.

3 The Commission has already tabled a wide range of proposals which are now being negotiated by the co-legislators. Timely adoption and full implementation of these measures would send a signal of confidence to citizens and to investors, helping to reinvigorate economic activity and stimulating much needed job creation.

4 It would add up to a major record of EU action before the May 2014 European Parliament elections.

5 During 2013 the Commission will focus on finalising arrangements for rapid implementation, including through the use of country-specific negotiation mandates to ensure that the priorities supported through EU-funded investment are clearly targeted on growth and jobs.

6 The proposals in the work programme will be tabled during 2013 and in the first part of 2014, bearing in mind the end of the current legislature. Annex I contains a more detailed list of the proposals the Commission intends to propose in 2013/14.

Initiatives selected by the Parliamentary Committees and the legislative assembly of the Azores

In accordance with Act No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006 as amended by Act No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012 as well as the methodology for providing scrutiny of EU initiatives approved on 8 January 2013, it falls to the European Affairs Committee to carry out the overall assessment and summarise the deliberations of Parliament's standing committees by drafting a final opinion.

The European Affairs Committee received the following deliberations from the standing committees:

i. The **Committee for Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees** unanimously decided at its meeting of 20 March 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Initiative on firearms: reducing gun-crime in Europe (Non-legislative Initiative)
- Framework for administrative measures for the freezing of funds, financial assets and economic gains of persons and entities suspected of terrorist activities inside the EU (Article 75 TFEU) (Legislative Initiative),
- Service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters (Legislative Initiative),
- EU Citizenship Report 2013: progress towards eliminating obstacles to EU citizens' rights (Non-legislative Initiative),
- Establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO) to protect the financial interests of the Union (Legislative Initiative);
- Fighting money laundering (Legislative Initiative),
- Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers (Legislative Initiative)

Simplification and Regulatory Burden Reduction initiatives:

- Revision of the Schengen Borders Code (562/2006) (Legislative Initiative),
- Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers (Legislative Initiative).

ii. The **Committee on Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities** unanimously decided at its meeting on 26 March 2013 (in the absence of the Left Bloc - *Bloco de Esquerda*) to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers (Legislative initiative),
- Preparing an EU position on the post-2015 development agenda (Non-legislative initiative),
- Preparing an EU position on the follow-up to Rio + 20 including the development of Sustainable Development Goals (Non-legislative initiative),
- Enlargement package 2013 (Non-legislative initiative),
- Negotiation directives for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the relevant partners (Non-legislative initiative),
- Comprehensive Approach to Crisis Management outside the EU (Non-legislative initiative).

iii. The **National Defence Committee** unanimously decided at its meeting on 20 March 2013 (in the absence of the Portuguese Communist Party - *Partido Comunista Português*) to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Energy Technologies and Innovation in a future European Energy Policy (Non-legislative initiative),
- Review of standardisation acquis (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),
- A Comprehensive Strategy for the Defence Sector (Non-legislative initiative),
- Proposals for reinforced partnering in research and innovation under Horizon 2020 (Legislative initiative),
- Single European Sky package - Single Sky II plus (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),
- A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),
- EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),
- New climate & energy framework for the period up to 2030 (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),
- Comprehensive Approach to Crisis Management outside the EU (Non-legislative initiative).

iv. i. The **Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration** unanimously decided at its meeting of 13 March 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Annual Growth Survey,
- Addressing systemic risks related to shadow banking,
- Common framework for the production of indices and benchmarks, in particular their governance and calculation,
- Review of the European System of Financial Supervision,

- Providing long-term finance through actions to ensure the effectiveness of financial institutions, markets and instruments
- Common Strategic Framework Funds and EU economic governance,
- Country-specific negotiation mandates for the Common Strategic Framework Funds for the period 2014-2020,
- Reforming the framework for collective investment funds/UCITS VI (focus on long-term investments, product rules and depositaries),
- Initiative on E-invoicing in the field of public procurement,
- Making business easier through a standard VAT declaration,
- Making the VAT system more efficient through a review of the rates structures,
- Bank account initiative,
- Follow up to Green Paper: Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and mobile payments,
- Modernisation of Public Employment Services,
- Establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO) to protect the financial interests of the Union,
- Fighting money laundering.

v. The **Committee on Economics and Public Works** unanimously decided at its meeting of 26 March 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Providing long-term finance through actions to ensure the effectiveness of financial institutions, markets and instruments,
- Common Strategic Framework Funds and EU economic governance,
- Country-specific negotiation mandates for the Common Strategic Framework Funds for the period 2014-2020,
- Reforming the framework for collective investment funds/UCITS VI (focus on long-term investments, product rules and depositaries),
- State aid Modernisation: General block exemption Regulation (800/2008),
- State aid modernisation in key sectors,
- Energy Technologies and Innovation in a future European Energy Policy,
- Reforming the internal market for industrial products,
- Proposals for reinforced partnering in research and innovation under Horizon 2020,
- Fighting misappropriation of trade secrets,
- Bank account initiative,
- Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment,
- Follow up to Green Paper: Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and

mobile payments,

- Single European Sky package - Single Sky II plus,
- A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport,
- Framework on the future EU ports' policy including a legislative proposal,
- Internal Road Market - Access to the road haulage market and access to occupation of road transport operator,
- New climate & energy framework for the period up to 2030,
- Preparing an EU position on the post - 2015 development agenda,
- Negotiation directives for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the relevant partners.

Simplification and Regulatory Burden Reduction initiatives:

- Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment,
- New Regulation on Official Controls,
- Initiative (Commission Delegated Act) on the electronic processing of declarations of performance under the Construction Products Regulation (No 305/2011/EU)
- Review of all existing Commission regulations, implementing Council regulation (EC) No 1216/2009 (trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products)
- Reforming the internal market for industrial products,
- A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport.

vi. The **Committee on Agriculture and the Sea** unanimously decided at its meeting of 9 April 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Review of EU political and legal framework for organic production (Legislative initiative),
- Animal medicines (Legislative initiative).

Simplification and Regulatory Burden Reduction initiatives:

- New Regulation on Plant Reproductive Materials (Legislative initiative),
- New Regulation on plant health (Legislative initiative),
- New Regulation on Animal health (Legislative initiative),
- Hygiene package legislation (revision) (Legislative initiative),
- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of marine organisms (Legislative initiative),
- A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport (Legislative/Non-legislative initiative),

vii. The **Committee on Education, Science and Culture** decided at its meeting of 19 March 2013 (with votes in favour from the Social Democratic Party – *Partido Social Democrata*, the Socialist Party – *Partido Socialista*, the Democratic and Social Centre – People's Party – *Centro Democrático e Social – Partido Popular* and the Portuguese Communist Party – *Partido Comunista Português* and in the absence of the Left Bloc and the Ecologist Party - *Partido Ecologista*) to select the following initiative for scrutiny:

- Internationalisation of Higher Education.

viii. The **Committee on Social Security and Labour** unanimously decided at its meeting of 20 March 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Annual Growth Survey (Non-legislative initiative),
- Common Strategic Framework Funds and EU economic governance (Non-legislative initiative),
- Access for regulated professions (Non-legislative initiative),
- Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the ESF 2014-2020 (Non-legislative initiative),
- Effective Institutions for Occupational Retirement Pensions (Legislative initiative),
- Modernisation of Public Employment Services (Legislative initiative),
- European platform to fight undeclared work (Legislative initiative).

ix. The **Committee on Environment, Territorial Planning and Local Government** unanimously decided at its meeting of 9 April 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change,
- New climate & energy framework for the period up to 2030,
- Review of Waste Policy and Legislation,
- Environmental climate and energy assessment framework to enable safe and secure unconventional hydrocarbon extraction,
- Preparing an EU position on the post - 2015 development agenda,
- Preparing an EU position on the follow-up to Rio + 20 including the development of Sustainable Development Goals.

x. The **Committee on Ethics, Citizenship and Communication** decided at its meeting of 14 March 2013 to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment (Legislative initiative),
- Action Plan on Wireless Communications for a Connected Europe (Non-legislative initiative),
- Integration of the Roma (soft law),
- EU Citizenship Report 2013: progress towards eliminating obstacles to EU citizens' rights

(Non-legislative Initiative).

xi. The Legislative Assembly of the Azores unanimously decided at its meeting of 22 March 2013 (with votes in favour from the Socialist Party, the Social Democratic Party, the Democratic and Social Centre - People's Party and the Left Bloc) to select the following initiatives for scrutiny:

- Common Strategic Framework Funds and UE economic governance,
- Country-specific negotiation mandates for the Common Strategic Framework Funds for the period 2014-2020,
- State aid modernisation in key sectors,
- Proposals for reinforced partnering in research and innovation under Horizon 2020,
- Framework on the future EU ports' policy,
- Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the ESF 2014-2020,
- Review of EU political and legal framework for organic production,
- Negotiation directives for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the relevant partners,

Simplification and Regulatory Burden Reduction initiatives:

- Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of marine organisms.

The Committee on Health and the Legislative Assembly of Madeira did not select any initiative.

PART III - CONCLUSIONS

1 Besides seeking to address the challenges of today - and the most immediate challenges in particular - the ECWP 2013 also endeavours to consolidate the foundations of the Union as part of a long-term project of construction and solidarity.

2 It mentions more than once that economic and monetary union, the internal market, trade policy, efficient use of resources and a more secure Europe constitute the foundations of a citizens' Europe, a Europe where growth and employment can be resumed in a sustainable way.

3 It also states that the proposals in this work programme will be tabled during 2013 and in the first part of 2014, bearing in mind the end of the current legislature.

4 It also stresses that the Commission has tabled a range of growth-enhancing proposals and that timely adoption and full implementation of these measures would send a signal of confidence to citizens and to investors, helping to reinvigorate economic activity and stimulating much needed job creation. It would add up to a major record of EU action before the May 2014 European Parliament elections.

5 Finally, we would state that the proposals submitted by each of the Parliamentary Committees and

the Legislative Assembly of the Azores are all relevant and appropriate, which is why we endorse them.

6 We therefore propose, pursuant to Act No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006 as amended by Act No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012, that the European Affairs Committee adopt - for the purpose of scrutiny - the ECWP 2013 initiatives selected by the specialised Committees.

PART IV – OPINION

The European Affairs Committee is of the opinion that:

- 1, The initiatives selected in Part III of this Opinion will be the subject of a draft resolution, annexed, to be submitted in plenary;
2. The present scrutiny procedure is now closed. This Opinion is to be sent to the President of Parliament together with the list of initiatives selected for closer scrutiny for transmission to the European institutions and the Government.

Palácio de São Bento, 14 May 2013

Rapporteur

(Carlos Costa Neves)

Committee Chair:

(Paulo Mota Pinto)

European Affairs Committee

PART V – ANNEXES

- Draft Resolution
- Opinions of the following standing parliamentary committees:
 - i. Committee on Constitutional Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees
 - ii. Committee on Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities
 - iii. National Defence Committee
 - iv. Committee on Budget, Finance and Public Administration
 - v. Committee on Economics and Public Works
 - vi. Committee on Agriculture and the Sea
 - vii. Committee on Education, Science and Culture
 - viii. Committee on Social Security and Labour
 - ix. Committee on Environment, Territorial Planning and Local Government
 - x. Committee on Ethics, Citizenship and Communication
- Opinion of the Legislative Assembly of the Azores

**PORTUGUESE PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Draft Resolution No /XII/12

Adoption by Parliament of the European initiatives considered to be a priority for the purpose of scrutiny under the 2013 European Commission Work Programme

As part of the monitoring, examination and issuing of opinions by the Portuguese Parliament in the context of EU integration, the 2013 European Commission Work Programme was debated on 5 March 2013 at a public hearing organised by the European Affairs Committee. It was attended by European Commission Vice-President, Antonio Tajani, the Deputy State Secretary and State Secretary for European Affairs, Miguel Morais Leitão, members of the Portuguese Parliament, Portuguese members of the European Parliament and members of the legislative assemblies of the Azores and of Madeira.

The European Affairs Committee thus received from the other Parliamentary Committees their Opinion on the 2013 European Commission Work Programme. They also stated which issues or initiatives they considered it a priority to follow up so that they could be included in the initiatives that would be scrutinised by the Portuguese Parliament.

Therefore, in accordance with Article 7 of Act No 43/2006 of 25 August 2006, amended by Act No 21/2012 of 17 May 2012 regulating the monitoring, examination and issuing of opinions by the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic in the context of the process of EU integration, as well as the methodology for providing scrutiny of EU initiatives approved on 8 January 2013:

On the proposal of the European Affairs Committee and pursuant to Article 166(5) of the Constitution, the Portuguese Parliament has decided to adopt for the purpose of scrutiny during 2013 the 2013 European Commission Work Programme initiatives listed in the annex to this resolution.

Portuguese Parliament, 17 May 2013

The Chair of the European Affairs Committee

ANNEX – Initiatives selected

	Title
1.	Annual Growth Survey
2.	Addressing systemic risks related to shadow banking
3.	Common framework for the production of indices and benchmarks, in particular their governance and calculation
4.	Review of the European System of Financial Supervision
5.	Providing long-term finance through actions to ensure the effectiveness of financial institutions, markets and instruments
6.	Common Strategic Framework Funds and EU economic governance
7.	Country-specific negotiation mandates for the Common Strategic Framework Funds for the period 2014-2020
8.	Reforming the framework for collective investment funds/UCITS VI (focus on long-term investments, product rules and depositaries)
9.	State aid Modernisation: General block exemption Regulation (800/2008)
10.	State aid modernisation in key sectors
11.	Energy Technologies and Innovation in a future European Energy Policy
12.	Reforming the internal market for industrial products
13.	Review of standardisation acquis
14.	Initiative on E-invoicing in the field of public procurement
15.	A Comprehensive Strategy for the Defence Sector
16.	Proposals for reinforced partnering in research and innovation under Horizon 2020
17.	Making business easier through a standard VAT declaration
18.	Making the VAT system more efficient through a review of the rates structures
19.	Access for regulated professions
20.	Fighting misappropriation of trade secrets
21.	Bank account initiative
22.	Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment
23.	Follow up to Green Paper: Towards an integrated European market for card, internet and mobile payments

	Title
24.	Single European Sky package - Single Sky II plus
25.	A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport
26.	Framework on the future EU ports' policy including a legislative proposal
27.	Internal Road Market - Access to the road haulage market and access to occupation of road transport operator
28.	Social Investment for Growth and Cohesion – including implementing the ESF 2014-2020
29.	Effective Institutions for Occupational Retirement Pensions
30.	Internationalisation of Higher Education
31.	Modernisation of Public Employment Services
32.	European platform to fight undeclared work
33.	Review of EU political and legal framework for organic production
34.	EU's Strategy on adaptation to climate change
35.	New climate & energy framework for the period up to 2030
36.	Review of the Thematic Strategy on air pollution and associated legislation
37.	Review of Waste Policy and Legislation
38.	Environmental climate and energy assessment framework to enable safe and secure unconventional hydrocarbon extraction
39.	Initiative on firearms: reducing gun-crime in Europe
40.	Framework for administrative measures for the freezing of funds, financial assets and economic gains of persons and entities suspected of terrorist activities inside the EU (Article 75 TFEU)
41.	Special safeguards in criminal procedures for Suspected or Accused Persons who are Vulnerable
42.	Service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters
43.	EU Citizenship Report 2013: Progress towards eliminating obstacles to EU citizens' rights
44.	Establishment of a European Public Prosecutor's office (EPPO) to protect the financial interests of the Union
45.	Fighting money laundering
46.	Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers
47.	Animal medicines
48.	Preparing an EU position on the post - 2015 development agenda
49.	Preparing an EU position on the follow-up to Rio + 20 including the development of Sustainable Development Goals
50.	Enlargement package 2013

	Title
51.	Negotiation directives for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement with the relevant partners
52.	Comprehensive Approach to Crisis Management outside the EU
53.	Reducing the costs of broadband infrastructure deployment
54.	New Regulation on Official Controls
55.	New Regulation on Plant Reproductive Materials
56.	New Regulation on plant health
57.	New Regulation on Animal health
58.	Hygiene package legislation (revision)
59.	Revision of the Schengen Borders Code (562/2006)
60.	Reviewing the Union's visa policy to facilitate life for legitimate travellers
61.	Initiative (Commission Delegated Act) on the electronic processing of declarations of performance under the Construction Products Regulation (305/2011/EU)
62.	Review of all existing Commission regulations, implementing Council regulation (EC) No 1216/2009 (trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products)
63.	Reforming the internal market for industrial products
64.	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of marine organisms
65.	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council for the conservation of fishery resources through technical measures for the protection of marine organisms
66.	A Blue Belt for a single market for maritime transport