

Opinion of the Committee on European Affairs

by virtue of Article 145 of Resolution 10/2014 (II.24.) OGY on certain provisions of the Rules of Procedure

concerning the communication on the European Commission Work Programme 2018

[COM(2017) 650]

The Committee

- recalling the exchange of views on the Work Programme (CWP 2018) with the Head of Commission Representation in Hungary at the Committee meeting of 19 February 2018;
- evaluates it positively that the European Commission tables all its legislative proposals in priority policy areas no later than May 2018, which will allow the European Parliament and Council the time and space to complete the legislative work;
- welcomes the setting up of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently" and expresses its hope that the position of national Parliaments will be duly taken into account in the Task Force;
- stresses that the financial gap caused by Brexit and the costs of new challenges in the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework shouldn't be financed to the detriment of traditional union policies (Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy), but should be covered partly from additional contributions of Member States;
- deems it indispensable that the security of Europe and Union citizens should be the focus point of Union migration strategy, based on the effective border protection of EU external borders;
- points out that the measures in the field of social, family affairs as well as labour market necessary for tackling demographic challenges fall to the exclusive competence of Member States;
- supports the initiatives to get "back to Schengen", however considers the proposal on the revision of the Schengen Border Code as disproportionate limitation of free movement provided by internal market and contrary to the acquis;

- agrees with main objectives of the European Pillar of Social Rights, however cannot accept the integration of the new Social Scoreboard into the European Semester;
- welcomes that the European Commission presented a strategy for the EU accession of Serbia and Montenegro as frontrunner candidates in the Western Balkan.

Budapest, 20 February 2018