



*Parlamentul României*  
*Senat*

Bucharest, 30th September 2014

*Courtesy translation*

**OPINION**

**of the ROMANIAN SENATE, on the**

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,  
THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE**

**COMMITTEE OF REGIONS. Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart,  
sustainable and inclusive growth**

COM (2014) 130 final

The Senate of Romania has examined the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, The European Economic or Social Committee and the Committee of Regions - COM (2014) 130 final, according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon (Protocol no.1)

Taking into account the report of our permanent Committee on European Affairs **the Plenum of the Senate**, during its session on the 30 September 2014, decided, as follows:

(1) **Encourages** the developments attained in achieving the objectives settled by the Europe 2020 Strategy with regard to the workforce, research and growth, climatic changes and energy, education and combating the poverty and social exclusion much more that this strategic initiative emerged in the context of a serious global financial crisis; in the same time regrets that these progresses are modest and with regard to only some objectives as well as the fact that with some indicators there are regresses towards the starting point of the implementation of the Strategy.

(2) **Reckons** Commission's initiative to carry out an evaluation of state of play in accomplishing the assumed objectives. On the other hand expresses its disappointment that the changes of the conceptual framework imposed by economic crisis are not taken into consideration in the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth; for instance the "**Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress**" by Joseph Stieglitz, Amartya Sen and Jean-Paul

Fitoussi conclusions on the limits of GDP are ignored. By not using the adequate statistical indicators the validity of the conclusions and the efficiency of applying the recommendations can be easily doubted. In this case the analysis is with regard to the evolution of the total GDP; any possible changes of its structure on branches/sectors would be extremely relevant at the half of this period even if the structural changes on short term are difficult to analyze and the indicator it's not an objective. One of the causes of the failure would be emphasized by achieving the growth objective of the occupying level: an analysis that can take into account the common market and its evolution would be very useful for the Member States and would complete the national analyses.

(3) **Considers** that any revision of the established targets by the Europe 2020 Strategy should take into account the social effects that the economic crisis is on the verge of creating and also the undermining of the market social economy trough policies of consolidation of the budgetary situation of the Member States and rescuing of the currency. In any other case there is a serious infringement of the Treaties, art. 3 al. 3 of the Treaty on European Union.

(4) **Takes into consideration** that there are strong inequities and that the GDP or any other indicator per capita does not reflect the real evaluation of the situation in which a considerable part of the population finds itself in. In conclusion the poverty degree can grow even if according to the current indicator medium salary is higher. The measurement system of the growth must take into consideration the wellbeing level of the citizens aiming towards a real social progress.

(5) **Considers** that a qualitative analysis would be useful; we don't know for instance how much of the performance achieved by the reduction of the carbon emissions is due to cancelling the activity during the crisis and how much is due to green measurements adopted for the target to be achieved, the aspect of the permanent character of the positive result would be necessary for the analyses.

(6) **Observes** that despite the fact that the issue is assumed by the Treaty of Lisbon that established that "The European Union promotes economical, social and territorial cohesion" the data referring to the changes in the territorial distribution of the followed indicators are lacking.

It would have been very useful for more precise measurements to see how the distribution of the poverty risqué change has changed. Taking into consideration of the territorial aspect can provide information that can help raise the occupation level, and also can explain the context that generates early leave of the school.

(7) **Emphasizes** that adopting the same type of measurements in all the Member States has produced, as expected different effects in different national contexts; this has to be taken into consideration in the same time with the proposals that European Commission will make at the beginning of 2015 with regard to the Strategy development. On the contrary the too many geared Europe will become from a potential danger not only a reality but also an assumed project of the European Union; this type of approach would be a flagrant contradiction to the interests of the less developed Member States.

p. President

Cristian - Sorin Dumitrescu