

SUMMARY
of the Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council on the the European Social Fund, as regards an increase of the initial pre-financing amount paid to operational programmes supported by the Youth Employment Initiative COM(2015) 46 final

The Chamber of Deputies notes that the current proposal is intended to increase the initial pre financing from the specific allotted fund for the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) corresponding to the year 2015, to approximately 1 billion euro. This approach modifies neither the initial pre-financing paid from the European Social Fund (ESF) for implementing the YEI operational programmes nor the initial pre financing which is going to be paid in 2016 from the YEI specific allotted funds. By applying the new proposals, the YEI pre financing ratio would increase, within the budgetary allocation for 2015, from 1%, respectively, 1.5% (in the case of Member States which benefit from financial aid) to 30%, without affecting the current financial profile which has been agreed in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014 – 2020.

The Chamber of Deputies expects that the Member States should put this financing to the disposal of the projects beneficiaries, under the form of down payments for these projects and monitoring them consequently. It is considered that by this speedy financing, a number between 350,000 - 650,000 young people could benefit from aid in the course of this year while the current ratio could only help a number between 14,000 and 22,000 young people. In the case of *Romania*, according to the data provided by the European Commission, after the adoption of the new modifications, the pre-financing will be of 31,798, 295 mil. EUR, in comparison with 1,589, 915 mil. EUR in the current formula.

The Chamber of Deputies accepts the position of the European Commission but it considers that the EU funds, especially those allotted to YEI should not replace the national efforts but they should complete them, as an additional support for the young people and as a strengthening of the national programmes.

The Chamber of Deputies notes that the main aspect pointed out by an important number of Member States, among which *Romania* too, was the need for more flexibility in comparison with the stipulation according to which, if within 12 months from the coming into force of the modified Regulations, the Member States do not transmit payment demands where the EU contribution from the YEI should be of at least 50% from the additional pre financing, they will have to reimburse to the European Commission, the total amount of the additional pre financing they have benefited from.