

SUMMARY
of the Opinion on the 2015 National Reform Programme of Romania and delivering
a Council opinion on the 2015 Convergence Programme
of Romania
COM (2015) 272

The Chamber of Deputies of Romania;

Takes note of the 4 specific recommendations for our country and admits that structural reforms are necessary in the respective fields, also being necessary to consolidate the economic recovery and to maintain the budgetary responsibility.

I. Referring to the first specific recommendation on the macroeconomic Stability:

1. Considers that Romania has registered important progress in consolidating the governance process at European level, so that to improve the evaluation process of the reforms which have been adopted and implemented within the Member States;
2. Agrees that Romania must be precautionary regarding the fiscal policies where it has registered progress so that to be able to maintain the results which have been obtained in its macroeconomic stability.

I. Referring to the second specific recommendation on the Budgetary Policy and taxation:

1. Considers that the specific recommendations in the fiscal and budgetary field represent a natural continuation of the country's specific recommendations of 2014 in this field and reasserts its intention to accomplish the current agreement in a satisfactory way;
2. Reminds that in the last few years, Romania has adopted measures meant to achieve fiscal consolidation and to reduce the budgetary deficits considerably, until reaching a 1.5% deficit in 2014. Romania is very careful to maintain fiscal discipline but there must be taken into consideration the specific needs of an economy which is behind the average of the other EU Member States.
3. Considers that fiscal relaxation:

- becomes necessary in order to fulfill the social targets assumed within the Strategy Europe 2020, especially to fight poverty and the risk of social exclusion;
- can contribute to improving the business environment while increasing efficiency and transparency of public administration can lead, in a direct way, to assuring the conditions for implementing the other reforms. The new reforms included within the National Reform Program for 2015 are in line with the European targets, being adapted to the current economic and social conditions in Romania.

II. Referring to the third specific recommendation regarding:

A. Labor market:

1. Takes note that the document of the European Commission underlines that although some improvements were registered in 2014, the women, the youth, the elderly and the Roma citizens continue to have low employment rates while there is a scarce financing of the active measures on the labor market.

The following aspects are underlined:

- The Ministry of Labor is launching a program according to which the employers will receive subventions of hundreds of Euros for working places and apprenticeship courses aiming at assuring the professional integration of 441,000 young people aged between 16 and 24 years.

2. Regarding the social transfers aiming at diminishing poverty, which is mentioned in the document as having limited efficiency, it reminds that the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction for the period 2015 – 2020 was adopted by the Government in May 2015.

B. Education:

1. Agrees with the European Commission as regards the main challenges in the field of education, reminding that Romania has already started to tackle them. Measures meant to improve the vocational and technical education have been taken and a National Program dedicated to the early education and care was conceived, which will come into force in the school year 2015 – 2016.

2. Regarding the graduation rate, it is mentioned the fact that the pupils who have not promoted but graduated the high school, participated in the exam for attesting the professional qualification which entitles them to get a qualification certificate of degree 4 in the EQF European qualifications system, what gives them the possibility to join the labor market.

C. Health

1. Agrees that The National Strategy for Health 2014 – 2020 should be continued in order to eliminate some dysfunctions as those regarding the patients' low access to modern medical services, **underlying** that progress has been made regarding:

- a) a better access to quality medical services for persons belonging to isolated communities;
- b) digitalization of the public health system;
- c) modernization of the health infrastructure;
- d) diminution of the excessive use of hospitalization.

2. Underlines that the Ministry of Health and the National House for Health Insurances have already identified a series of measures meant to improve the health financing system. The reform measures which have already been applied have diminished the financing deficit and have improved the efficiency standard of services.

IV. Referring to the fourth specific recommendation regarding the state-owned companies:

Reminds that, improving the corporate governance of the state-owned companies, is a goal which has been assumed by the Government. In this respect, a step forward has been made by the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 109/2011 which has introduced certain rules of corporate governance in the state-owned companies.