

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
DECISION

on the adoption of an opinion on the Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market.
COM(2015) 462

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of articles 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this decision:

Sole Article. Taking into account Opinion No 4c-19/932 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 8 December 2015, the Chamber of Deputies

1. Notes that in the field of employment, the European Union is competent only to support the measures taken by the Member States. The Union can contribute through the drawing up of an employment strategy, the creation of a cooperation framework, the taking of organisational and coordination measures and the exchange of good practices.

Thus, the objective of this initiative is to provide the Member States, employment services or other competent organisations with guidelines on setting up a personalised support system to increase the reintegration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market.

2. Notes with interest the results of the public consultation organised by the European Commission from 19 February 2015 to 15 May 2015 on the provision of services to the long-term unemployed in the Member States and at EU level. The main measures supported by the participants were the introduction of an individual offer of active support, a single point of contact, mutual responsibilities and increasing participation in active support measures and support for employers.

3. Observes that since long-term unemployment varies from Member State to Member State and affects individuals differently, the problem must be addressed by individualised active support, and Member States should be granted the flexibility to adapt their policies accordingly.

4. Regrets the continuing negative statistics concerning long-term unemployment despite the economic recovery and notes that, given the long-term outlook for slow economic growth in the EU and the lack of direct and robust actions to change the current employment cycle, we will see a repetition of the worst-case scenario typical of periods of economic crisis, in which those who lose their jobs subsequently often lose the hope of any real prospect of being re-employed.

5. Points out that for a significant number of people, the objective of obtaining traditional high-quality employment is in most cases difficult to achieve.

Against this background, welcomes the emphasis on initiatives to develop entrepreneurship and recommends that EU documents designed to support the unemployed should highlight the current trend of modifying the job paradigm, offer the new paradigm of jobs that use

advanced technology and have a significant component of entrepreneurship and provide examples of such jobs and methods of accessing them.

6. Welcomes the Council's approach whereby tackling long-term unemployment requires structural reforms in many policy areas and a multidimensional strategy aimed at ensuring a favourable macroeconomic environment, consolidating social cohesion and supporting the development of the skills needed in the labour market.

7. Welcomes the promotion of one-stop shops to link employment with social protection, eliminate lack of clarity concerning the division of responsibility between players such as the public employment services, social services and local and regional authorities, and coordinate management of the profile of each unemployed person.

8. Welcomes the emphasis on supporting employers, in particular the requirement for adaptation of the programmes for the long-term unemployed to the needs of employers, measures to reduce labour taxation and the re-channelling of existing allocations into schemes directly supporting integration in the labour market, such as recruitment subsidies.

9. Welcomes in particular the measure proposed for informing the long-term unemployed about job vacancies and the support available in different sectors of the economy, in different regions and in other Member States, in particular through the European Employment Services (EURES). Notes that the support for encouraging mobility must be substantial and proportional to the difficulty of employing the person concerned.

Also notes that the rise in populist, nationalist and anti-EU movements in certain Member States does not encourage mobility within the EU.

10. Acknowledges that reintegration in the labour market depends not just on the quality of the services provided but on the macro-economic situation, the economic structure and the operation of the labour market in each Member State, but stresses that there may also be other reasons for lack of progress, which may cause investors to lose interest or prevent entrepreneurs from making a profit.

11. Notes that already in 2006 the European Union launched the idea of flexible and reliable contractual arrangements under the concept of 'flexicurity' and emphasises that this concept is currently being put into practice as part of the European semester, which was completed with country-specific recommendations that state the need to strike a balance between flexibility and security.

Observes that the effects of the economic crisis include the growth in the number of zero-hour/low-hour contracts, and agreements between employees and employers to save an undertaking by temporarily reducing employees' rights.

Considers that the Council's recommendation should analyse these aspects of the labour market and establish whether zero-hour contracts and agreements between employees and employers are limited to the concept of flexicurity, whether they are acceptable arrangements and how they should be aligned with EU employment principles.

12. Proposes to analyse the possibilities of a communication strategy that, with a view to mobilising job seekers, is designed to cultivate the image of a 'person sought by employers', i.e. a person with qualifications sought on the labour market and higher-than-average professional and personal qualities.

13. Observes that the proposed recommendation calls for support services, such as financial advice on debts, rehabilitation, social assistance, care services, integration of immigrants and support in housing and transport, and refers, among other matters, to the need to combine preventive and curative measures; however, it does not give examples of curative measures and does not specify the main categories of social and/or medical services needed to help people who have difficulty finding a job.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 14 December 2015, in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

THE
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

PRESIDENT

Valeriu Ștefan ZGONEA

Bucharest, 14 December 2015

No 115.