

PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

DECISION

**approving the opinion on the Commission Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee Europe investing again - Taking stock of the Investment Plan for Europe and next steps
COM(2016) 359**

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 Rules 160 to 185 of the Rules of Procedures of the Chamber of Deputies, republished,

the Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this Decision.

Sole Article - Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/970, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 14 September 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. welcomes the Commission's intention to enhance the sectoral and geographical coverage of funding from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (hereinafter 'the EFSI').
2. considers that the number of requests received by *the European Investment Advisory Hub* - 160 - is very low in light of the need for funding and the stated aim of the EFSI and asks the European Investment Bank and the European Commission to analyse the impact and effectiveness of the platform in order to identify any obstacles faced by those seeking advice through this channel.
3. recommends that the nature of the obstacles facing investors in the European Union be analysed carefully using both the information collected during the procedure for obtaining EFSI funding and structured dialogue between the European Commission and the Member States and that ways be found to amend the European regulatory framework and improve the programme objectives at the EU level in order to stimulate entrepreneurship and create new business and work opportunities for young people.
4. recommends that the European Commission and the European Investment Bank consider the specific investment conditions in each Member State, in particular funding gaps, as a relevant and even determining factor in the EFSI's investment decisions in order to better highlight the additionality guaranteed by this fund.
5. recommends that the European Commission and the European Investment Bank pay more attention to the impact of funded investments on jobs and human resources in Member States where there are investments funded by the EFSI.
6. welcomes and supports the intention to develop new financial instruments to support innovative and fast-growing SMEs and for mid-cap companies, including an equity product specifically designed for them.

7. recommends that, as a matter of priority, strategic cross-border investments be extended more vigorously to the eastern border of the Union, especially in situations where a geographical region has a preferential historical link to a Member State.

8. supports the objective of enhancing complementarity between the EFSI and other EU funds and considers that it offers a good opportunity to simplify the procedures for accessing EU funds in general, both with an eye to making them more efficient and to ensuring that problems in the management of these funds do not affect investments.

9. welcomes the intention to draft a regulation on common measures for combining the European Structural and Investment Funds with the EFSI to facilitate the use of these funds in connection with EFSI Investment Platforms, but points out that such solutions require much administrative effort and that in such cases it is necessary to have simpler and more user-friendly procedures that override national procedures.

10. recommends that the European Commission use its experience with the financing of SMEs in order to extend and strengthen the EFSI's contribution to increasing investments in micro-enterprises facing a funding gap, in particular in innovative initiatives, to providing social-economy entities with capital and to promoting an entrepreneurial spirit, especially among the young.

11. recommends that the European Commission take measures to promote as fairly as possible infrastructure projects and particularly innovative projects, so that support can be given also to Member States with less developed financial markets and private sectors.

12. recommends that the European Commission recalibrate the EFSI funding mechanism by applying simpler procedures and less strict conditions to make access easier for smaller public and private entities that have limited equity for investment, including for newly established firms.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 20 September 2016 in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

**PRESIDENT
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

Florin Iordache

Bucharest, 20 September 2016
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