

## PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA

## CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

## DECISION

**on the adoption of an opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions and the European Investment Bank - Strengthening European Investments for jobs and growth: Towards a second phase of the European Fund for Strategic Investments and a new European External Investment Plan  
COM(2016) 581**

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. - Having regard to Opinion No 4c-19/1181, adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 18 October 2016, the Chamber of Deputies:

1. Supports the need to increase the capacity for action and financial capacity of the European Fund for Strategic Investments, but is concerned about the impact of this increase on budgetary expenditure for key sectors of the EU economy which benefit less from this Fund, including social and environmental protection, particularly in the less developed Member States.
2. Welcomes the stated aim of the European Fund for Strategic Investments 2.0 to enhance the geographical coverage of the EFSI and reinforce the take-up in less developed and transition regions.
3. Draws attention to the risk of an increase in the burden on the rating of the EU financial institutions once the European Fund for Strategic Investments is extended, and is concerned that innovative SMEs, in particular those established in less developed Member States, may have additional difficulties in accessing this fund as a result.
4. Draws attention to the increasing risk of a reduction in transparency and public control of the use of the funds due to the extension strategy proposed, and requests additional procedural safeguards to ensure that EU legislation is complied with and public funds are used exclusively in the interest of the third countries receiving the funds.
5. Calls on the European Commission to provide for procedures and criteria whereby the Fund can encourage young people's business initiatives, especially in Member States with high youth unemployment.

6. Is concerned about the European Commission's intention to prepare a team of envoys supporting European investments in Member States, given that it would be difficult to control the influence that they exercised on the Member States' development strategies, particularly in countries whose critical need for investment makes them vulnerable.
7. Recommends that the Commission encourage, through the new Fund guidelines, innovative SMEs, especially those engaged in export or research into new technologies, including through practical measures to step up support and reduce co-financing and the guarantees required of such SMEs.
8. Points out that the willingness of the banks in certain Member States to co-finance investments referred to the European Fund for Strategic Investments has not been very great, and in some Member States very few SMEs have called directly on the EU institutions for access to the Fund; Recommends that the European Commission should analyse more carefully the causes of these phenomena and identify measures to remove barriers.
9. Calls on the Commission to examine the influence that the European Fund for Strategic Investments has had on the operation of the single market in order to identify any malfunctions caused and take timely action to correct them.
10. Recommends enhancing the way in which, in the long term, the European Fund for Strategic Investments complements EU strategies aimed at medium- and long-term objectives in the field of the knowledge-based society, and increasing the use of cosmic space, broadband infrastructure, high-performance computers and other facilities that reflect the results of scientific progress and state-of-the-art technology, in order to support them in a balanced way at local level and ensure the future coherence and operation of the single market.

*This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at its sitting of 25 October 2016 in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.*

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, FLORIN IORDACHE

Bucharest, 25 October 2016

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