

Statement by the Committee on the Labour Market 2011/12:AU4

Subsidiarity check of the Proposal for a Regulation on a European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation

Reasoned opinion of the Riksdag

The Riksdag welcomes the Commission's work to promote the sharing of good practice and mutual learning, supporting social innovation and Europe-wide approaches, as well as work to put the need for specific reforms on the agenda, identify barriers to change and ways of overcoming them and ensure that existing Union level rules are complied with.

The Riksdag notes that the Union does not have exclusive competence in the field of employment policy but should support and, where necessary, supplement measures taken by member states. The Riksdag's conclusion is therefore that the measures set out in the proposal may be subject to a subsidiarity check. According to the principle of subsidiarity, measures are to be taken at Union level only if, and to the extent that, they cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states themselves.

It has emerged that the Commission is of the opinion that the proposed programme cannot be achieved to a sufficient extent by the member states themselves. The Riksdag notes that, in its assessment, the Commission has not made any distinction between different parts of the programme.

The Riksdag wishes to underline what the Swedish Government has also established; that it is the member states that have the main responsibility for and which are best equipped to formulate and implement policies in the field of employment and social policy. The Riksdag considers that the focus of measures and instruments at Union level should be governed by principles of European added value. Measures at Union level should be regarded as a supplement to the member states' own measures in the field of employment policy.

In view of this, the Riksdag welcomes the parts of the proposal concerning the *Progress programme* and *EURES*. The Riksdag agrees with the Swedish Government that the goals of this part of the programme cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states alone.

As regards the parts of the programme concerning *microfinance* and *social entrepreneurship*, the Riksdag is of the opinion that there may be reason to adopt an overall strategy for development of social enterprise within the EU as a driving factor and a factor that can raise knowledge levels. However, regarding the promotion of access to microcredit and support to social enterprise, the Riksdag is doubtful as to whether there is any European added value. It should be possible to fulfil the goals sufficiently at national level. Measures of the kind referred to in this part of the proposal should be the individual responsibility of each member state, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity. The Riksdag therefore considers that the parts of the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation on a European Union Programme for Social Change and Innovation, COM (2011) 609 final concerning microfinance and social entrepreneurship conflict with the principle of subsidiarity. In the opinion of the Riksdag, the other parts of the programme do not conflict with the principle of subsidiarity.