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COMMITTEE:
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

CHAIRPERSON:
DINO BUKOVSKI & ANDREY STOYCHEV

TOPIC: (B)
EUROPE 2020

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (EP)

Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs



The European Parliament is the only EU body elected directly by the European citizens; its members exercise the independent mandate, this means that each and every one of the 735 MEPs represent all of the people of Europe regardless of political color or nationality.

As in any other parliament the technical debate on the proposed legislation is not done at a plenary session but in the Parliament's committees where the proposals are being discussed before they are presented at a plenary session. In a discussion on a proposal one committee is assigned as "responsible" and one or more are to deliver "opinions". When the work in a committee is done it presents the plenary with opinions, amendments to a proposal or it may be the so-called "Own-initiative report". The EP has twenty committees each of them having specific competencies.

One of those twenty committees is the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON), its specific competencies cover: the economic and monetary policies of the Union, the functioning of Economic and Monetary Union and the European monetary and financial system (including relations with the relevant institutions or organisations); the free movement of capital and payments (cross-border payments, single payment area, balance of payments, capital movements and borrowing and lending policy, control of movements of capital originating in third countries, measures to encourage the export of the Union's capital); the international monetary and financial system (including relations with financial and monetary institutions and organisations); rules on competition and State or public aid; tax provisions and the regulation and supervision of financial services, institutions and markets including financial reporting, auditing, accounting rules, corporate governance and other company law matters specifically concerning financial services.

SOFIMUN 2010 will simulate the EP-ECON as close as possible to reality, meaning each delegate will be representative of a specific Member State and at the same time being affiliated to a European political group. Those two components will be vital for determining the policy position of a certain MEP: the general position of the European political group strengthened by cooperation among MEPs coming from the same European political group and the specific and/or slightly different position of their national parties (which are part of European political groups).

More at:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&body=ECON>



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Topic B: Europe 2020 – 1. INTRODUCTION



After the Lisbon Strategy, Europe 2020 is a new economic growth strategy. At the moment, Europe is recovering the worst financial and economic crisis. It annulled years of progress, leaving very little intact. About 7 million workers lost their jobs pushing the number of unemployed up to 23 million. The number of house repossessions increased as many were unable to service mortgages. Many businesses went bankrupt. Banks around the world had to be bailed out by governments. In

2010 public deficits hit 7% of the GDP and debt levels increased to over 80%. In the beginning of this century, progress was more than visible. GDP per capita increased by 13.5% and unemployment fell to 7%.

The crisis made both, weaknesses and strengths of the European approach clearly notable. European economies are highly interdependent. It can be utilized to the benefit of the European economy and represent an advantage. However, if this feature is not utilized in a proper manner, it can be a destructive power. Moreover, there are pre-crisis challenges which are now even more pressing: globalization, ageing of the working population, problems with respect to energy and resources. Collective action was needed to save the financial system and demand boost had to be done by public intervention. Now it is time to create a new generation of public policies in newly occurred circumstances.

The objective is to create a new sustainable social market economy that is smarter and greener with emphasis on innovation and better use of resources for the purpose of creating sustainable growth and new jobs that were lost due to the crisis. Otherwise Europe may find itself in a long period of low growth. That is why this new strategy puts people and responsibility in the focus along with the effort to create new sources of growth to create jobs. The strategy also recognizes the fact that globalization and interdependence can be seen as an advantage. Thus, the external dimension of the strategy is a very important part of it, emphasizing that the EU needs to be more active in international fora. Finally, the strategy is to be implemented through a partnership on all levels applying the multi-layer governance (supranational, national and regional).

2. Relevance and History of the Problem

The Lisbon Strategy and the Crisis

The global financial and economic crisis, which started in the summer of 2007, influenced the EU very much. The crisis had very much in common with the previous financial-



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stress driven recession episodes. The crisis was preceded by long period of rapid credit growth, low risk premiums, abundant availability of liquidity, strong leveraging, soaring asset prices and the development of bubbles in the real estate sector. Over-stretched leveraging positions rendered financial institutions extremely vulnerable to corrections in asset markets.¹ After substantial economic achievements have been made through implementing the Lisbon Strategy, the devastating crisis pushed the public deficits up to 7% and the number of unemployed up to 23 million. Growth was paralyzed and went into the minus area. Fiscal positions of governments have aggravated. Europe took a severe hit. Governments had to pump into the EU economy a large amount of money which can be counted in trillions. It seems that because of the economic and monetary cooperation in the form of EMU has made the EU more resilient to external shocks as a block. Nevertheless, this was a wake up call. Something needs to change right away, since no one could have predicted that the crisis would be such a big setback for the European economy. New decisions have been passed in order to tackle the crisis, policy responses were in place, damage control was done through a trio of steps to be taken of for the purpose of crisis management – crisis prevention, crisis control and crisis resolution. The emphasis was put on crisis resolution. Financial, macroeconomic and structural policies needed to be well coordinated and equipped with exit strategies. The crisis has also shown that EU-level coordination is vital and can be a big comparative advantage in the global economy. At the moment, the EU is slowly recovering from the crisis. Olli Rehn, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs made a statement referring to the year 2010: "The improved outlook for economic growth this year is good news for Europe. We must now ensure that growth will not be derailed by risks related to financial stability."²



The next step is to fully and successfully exit the crisis and recover from it. It is indispensable to create balanced and stable growth and sustainable and reasonable fiscal policies. The crisis has shown a very dangerous European weak-spot – coordination issues. Apart from that, the positive macroeconomic spill-over effects can be used as a tool for exiting the crisis and strengthening the European economy. The financial sector is under pressure and the financial resources are as well. The remaining problems in the financial sector (especially financial supervision) need to be solved as quickly as possible in order to increase investments necessary for creating growth. The EU must make the new priorities visible in the budgetary policies, but continue to fiscally boost the demand before achieving once again sustainable public finances and ultimately – macroeconomic stability.

¹ Economic Crisis in Europe: Causes, Consequences and Responses, retrieved 10 March 2010, http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/publication15887_en.pdf

² The financial and economic crisis – facts analysis and policies, retrieved 19 May 2010, http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/focuson/crisis/index_en.htm



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The need for a new strategy derives not only from the severe crisis that hit the EU, but also from the fact that the Lisbon Strategy has the expiration date set in 2010. The Lisbon Strategy was launched in 2000 as the EU strategy with the objective to "become the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010 capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion and respect for the environment". In 2005, it was to be re-launched after a mid-term review. It was based on a partnership approach between the Member States and the EU institutions. There were many events and processes that influenced the possibility of proper implementation of the Strategy, such as the Big Bang Enlargement and the crisis.

The Lisbon Strategy has been finally evaluated in a Commission paper SEC(2010)114³ and the conclusions were elaborated. There were many benefits deriving from the Strategy. However, the Strategy also had weak-spots that have been identified in the mentioned paper. The biggest achievement of the Lisbon Strategy was the acknowledgement of interdependency of European national economies. That interdependency can be an advantage, but it can become a disadvantage.

The Commission identified the following benefits of the Lisbon Strategy:

- A broad consensus on reforms necessary for the EU was built;
- Citizens have seen the benefits of it;
- Employment was increased;
- Structural reforms made the EU more resilient to problems with special emphasis on the crisis;
- Through Structural Funds respectable investments were mobilized, but more needs to be done in the never-ending battle for growth and jobs;
- Positive experience with the partnership between Member States and the EU in dealing with such a strategy.
- Policy learning and exchange of good practices has been increased and improved.⁴

The Commission defined the following problems identified in the Lisbon Strategy that need to be addressed in the sequel of the Lisbon Strategy:

- Increase of employment has not always lead to decrease of poverty;
- The Strategy has overlooked some issues which were in the root of the crisis;

³ SEC(2010) 114, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

⁴ SEC(2010) 114, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm



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- o The pace of the reforms was slow and uneven;
- o The interdependency and the importance of it needs to be recognized and emphasized more;
- o The Strategy needed stronger links with other EU instruments, initiatives and measures in order to be more effective;
- o Implementation suffered due to variable ownership and weak governance structure;
- o The impact of country-specific recommendations has been diverse;
- o Communication needs to be pointed out as the biggest weak-spot;
- o More effect could have been made in the eurozone;
- o The external dimension needs to be strengthened.⁵

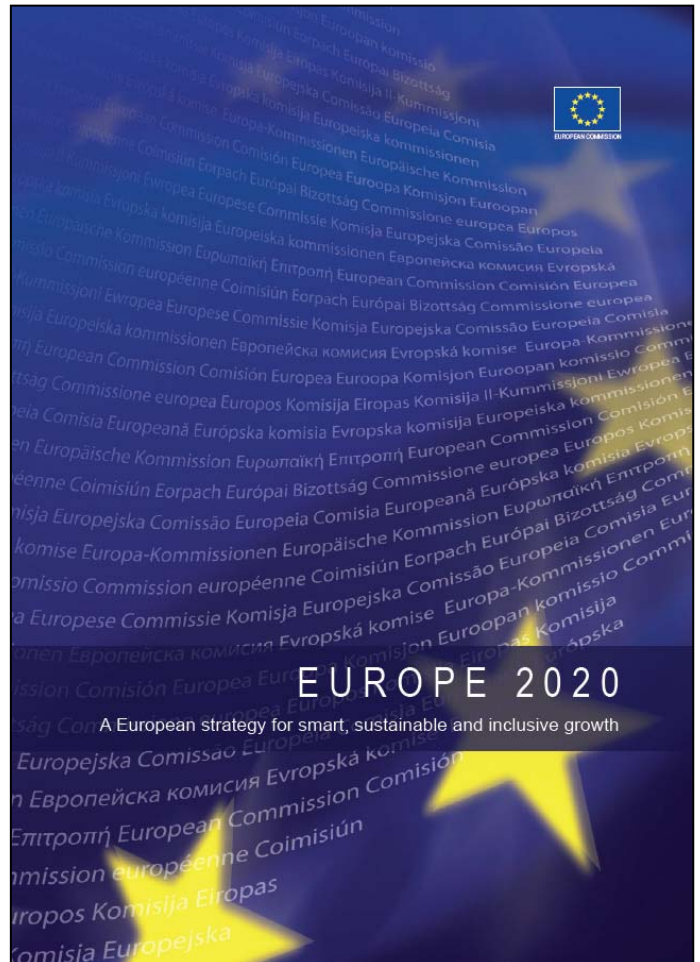
The crucial areas with special emphasis continue to be strong macroeconomic resilience, financing, research and development (R&D) and innovation, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), greening the economy and the most important thing, investing in people.

The next natural step after the Lisbon Strategy was to develop a new strategy. The Commission has come up with a new Europe 2020 strategy and launched public consultation on it through the COM(2009)647.⁶ The Commission has received over 1500 contributions from various actors on the European scene. All of these were collected and addressed in the Commission document SEC(2010)116.⁷

Post-Lisbon and the New Challenges

There are quite a few new challenges that need to be dealt with. Firstly it is necessary to keep the public sector deficit under control and strengthen fiscal positions of the governments. Secondly, efficient resources management and usage is vital, with special emphasis on energy. Thirdly, the growth potential must be increased.

At the moment, the public sector deficit can be considered to be under control. However, public spending is begging to be reshaped as it is not compatible with the



⁵ SEC(2010) 114, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

⁶ COM(2009)647, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

⁷ SEC(2010)116, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm



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objectives proclaimed by the Union. In that process, it is of utmost importance not to cut on forward-looking long-term policy areas.

The Union has also recognized the necessity of preserving energy, natural resources and raw materials. Apart from that all those resources need to be used more efficiently in the service of raising productivity.

The EU has a rapidly ageing society which is a risk for the growth potential that is being reduced by the minute and it will be lower in 2020, if actions are not taken immediately.

It is more than necessary for the new policies to clearly show that the EU is oriented towards preserving social cohesion, dealing with unemployment, working on social inclusion, making the labour markets more flexible, improving the education system, fostering innovation and creativity and becoming a greener and smarter Union. Europe must enhance policy coordination to become more competitive, especially with regard to social, economic and environmental objectives.

3. Europe 2020



The aforementioned leads to a conclusion - Europe has to change the economic strategy following the path of European comparative strengths of the approach. The Commission drew up a proposal on a new strategy, which was subjected to public consultation resulting with quite a lot of comments. The strategy is based on achievements and lessons learned. The primary objective is to speed up the exit out of the crisis. The following objective must naturally be to provide sustainable growth for the future. Europe has high quality of life and a unique social model. This should be preserved and put into balance with other goals of the European economy - high employment, sustainable growth and green solutions. These are the special key features of the European approach which could lead to long-term benefits and sustainability.

The strategy will focus on a trio of intertwined goals - growth derived out of knowledge, being an inclusive society, and a green(er) economy competitive in the global scene. Europe cannot compete by lowering its labour costs or lowering the



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level of social protection.

Knowledge and an innovative climate must lead to growth. Therefore, R&D investment level must be raised from the current level of 2% of the GDP and measures for transposing the results into the economy have to be set up.

Europe needs a big labour contingent which has to be very skilful. Anticipating skills that will be needed is vital, Lifelong learning is an unavoidable part of the package and youth unemployment combating measures are necessary.

A green but competitive and sustainable economy is a very important feature of the new approach. Adapting the economy to the environment is essential for long-term sustainability and not to mention quality of life. It leads to the creation of new jobs. Europe is a leader in green solutions, and that is why this area needs to be strengthened even more. Environmentally sustainable growth can be measured by increased productivity, reduction in emissions, and an increase in the proportion of energy coming from renewable sources.⁸

For Europe this is the crucial moment to become a true global player. This has been facilitated by the instruments introduced by the Lisbon Treaty. On a more general level, lessons have been learned through the experience of the Lisbon Strategy. It is vital to boost policy efficiency.

Europe 2020 can be regarded as a sequel of the Lisbon Strategy, episode two, aspiring to be even a more successful one and a better implemented one. Economic recovery following the sustainable growth concept would generate employment. This has been envisaged in the Europe 2020 Growth and Employment Strategy. At the moment, financial markets have been stabilized, but further efforts are necessary. For the attainment of these goals, coordination of economic policies is indispensable. The affirmation of the recovery made up until now depends extensive job creation should be used as a tool.

Key drivers of EU 2020 as proposed by the Commission are the following:

Creating value by basing growth on knowledge (including education, research, innovation and creativity, the digital economy);

Empowering people in inclusive societies (including emphasis on improving the skills of the European working contingent, flexicurity as the unique European concept to make the labour markets more flexible while preserving social protection, combating poverty and social exclusion, creating a Europe-wide entrepreneurial culture to boost self-employment);

Creating a competitive, connected and greener economy (more efficient use of resources with emphasis on „expensive“ energy, use of green technologies for growth and job-creation, increasing productiveness by reducing resources pressure, developing smart transport and energy infrastructures in the service of better connecting the European economy, a new approach to

⁸ Europe 2020, retrieved 10 March 2010, <http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/>



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industrial policy with emphasis on sustainability, innovation and human skills, tackling structural challenges, improving conditions for entrepreneurship, especially SMEs).⁹

Old instruments in the service of a new approach

The existing instruments need to be integrated into the new strategy. The Commission analysed the existing instruments and their compatibility with the new approach. The analysis proved the importance and the omnipresence of interdependence in the EU. Interdependence can be in the service of progress as an advantage, if properly taken into account and properly approached. It was found on four different levels:



Interdependence between Member States in the form of spill-over effects of national actions, especially in the Eurozone;

Interdependence between different levels of government or the multi-layer governance;

Interdependence between policies, policies and instruments and the importance of policy integration to achieve the „higher“ objectives;

Interdependence at global level.¹⁰

All of the mentioned levels are taken care of in the proposal of the strategy as an attempt to make the interdependence an European comparative advantage. It seems to be a big step forward in relation to the expired Lisbon Strategy.

Other instruments need to be aligned with the new approach. The single market needs to become a crucial tool for bringing benefits closer to the citizens. Europe as a whole needs to take advantage of the competition and consumer access which make the single market an European advantage. Competition and consumer access stimulate the growth and innovation. Making the markets work for people is another dimension of the plan to empower the people.¹¹

⁹ COM(2009)647, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

¹⁰ COM(2009)647, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

¹¹ COM(2009)647, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm



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The EU needs to become a true global player. That is why the external dimension of Europe 2020 is strongly emphasized and put in the context of globalisation. The EU must act together and strongly in the international fora. It is very important as international trade is one of the key elements of European growth, employment and investment. In addition to that, economic and political relations with key strategic partners should be deepened with emphasis on access to markets, energy and raw materials. Europe also needs to remain the leader on the environmental and social plan.¹²

The Stability and Growth Pact¹³, as the framework for coordinating national fiscal policies in the EMU, needs to be another instrument supporting the Europe 2020 objectives. Public finances need to be consolidated and public spending redesigned in the light on the new objectives. Structural reforms must be reinforced and fully implemented. Apart from making the objectives visible in the public budgets and apart from stricter budgetary revision, the Union needs to employ different financing models (e. g. PPPs and EIB funding).

The final issue with political implications is the issue of governance in relation to the steering and implementation of the strategy. The Commission proposes a partnership approach between the EU, national and regional level, a multi-layer system based on the Lisbon Treaty. The European Parliament should play a much more important role and is encouraged to state its position. The leading responsibility lies on the shoulders of the European Council which is to direct the work of the Council of the EU configurations. However, the strategy can not succeed without the wide and proactive support of all the social partners, civil society and stakeholders. National parliaments are also expected to play a certain role concerning the strategy.¹⁴

4. Feedback and Reactions in the European Political Arena

Responses in the public consultation process: European political groups

In the summary of responses in the process of public consultation there were around 1500 contributions from different players. Member States have shown broad support for Europe 2020. Effective monitoring, benchmarking, partnership and communication were emphasized. The support came from regional and local authorities as well. European institutions and bodies also showed support for the plan emphasizing some part(s) of the plan, especially multi-level governance. The support also came from the direction of stakeholders, citizens and international players (third countries and international organizations).¹⁵

Various views were expressed by the European political groups which submitted their contributions.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Stability and Growth Pact, retrieved 10 March 2010, http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/sgp/index_en.htm

¹⁴ COM(2009)647, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

¹⁵ SEC(2010) 116, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm



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A left political approach would propose priorities more aligned with their political platform and a potential merger of the Lisbon Strategy, the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Stability and Growth Pact. It would also not be keen to agree that the European Council should be the key player of the Europe 2020. There are also different sources of funding the strategy.

A civic liberal approach generally is in line with the main priorities, but more attention would be concentrated on the internal market and the free movement of people, as well as financial supervision. According to this approach, the Commission should have a central role. Advocates of such approach would also like to see more involvement of all the players and partners so that communication could be used as a "pressure tool".

On the other hand, a right, European conservative and reformist or the Eurosceptic option would argue for a completely different set of goals to be achieved. Completion of the single market for goods and services, R&D plus energy, reduction of administrative burden on enterprises, focus on SMEs, innovative procurement and public-private partnerships (PPPs), wage flexibility and skills, climate and energy. Respect of subsidiarity is strongly emphasized.¹⁶

Conclusions of the European Council

In Brussels on the 25 and 26 March 2010, the European Council discussed the new Europe 2020 strategy proposed by the Commission. There, the European council agreed upon the main elements of the strategy, key targets, implementation and monitoring. The conclusions on the European Council have been summed up in the document EUCO 7/10. It must be noted that in the conclusions it is mentioned that the strategy Europe 2020 will be formally adopted in June. However, not all of its elements will be adopted.¹⁷

The European Council found that the situation after the crisis is improving, but that the recovery seems fragile. Restoration of macroeconomic stability and sustainability of public finances have been mentioned as first priorities in order to enable the potential success of the strategy. The importance of structural reforms is noted. Europe needs to boost competitiveness, productivity, growth potential and economic convergence. Efforts will be focused in the areas of knowledge and innovation, a more sustainable economy, high employment and social inclusion. Some number-specific targets have been set.¹⁸

Member States will be responsible to set national targets, but taking into account different starting positions and national circumstances, and they will draw up National Reform Programmes. Flagship initiatives will be proposed by the Commission. All common policies will need to be in support of this strategy. The external dimension is recognized as very important and at the same meeting the G20 meeting strategy was discussed.¹⁹

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ EUCO 7/10, http://europa.eu/documentation/official-docs/index_en.htm

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.



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A large variety of different monitoring mechanisms have been mentioned and together they form the strategy implementation monitoring system (European Systemic Risk Board, the European Council meetings, economic policy coordination, eurozone, ECOFIN Council, exchange of best practices). Cooperation with the European Parliament and other European players is also stressed as important and emphasized.

5. Questions a resolution should answer

Why is the Parliament important for the decision-making process for Europe 2020? The European Council has to create general directions and set priorities for the Union, but it does not exercise legislative power; it is the Council of the EU that does exercise the legislative power together with the Parliament in most cases, according to the ordinary legislative procedure. Those two bodies also jointly exercise the budgetary power and political control.

In this context, the Parliament must answer some questions in the decision-making process with respect to the new strategy proposal, Europe 2020.

- 1) Is Europe 2020 the right step for Europe in general?
- 2) What are the challenges that need to be dealt with in the Europe 2020?
- 3) Does the Parliament agree with the set goals? Should they be amended?
- 4) Is the strategy employing the right means to achieve these goals?
- 5) What should be the role of existing instruments in the new strategy?
- 6) What is the best way to coordinate Europe as a whole in implementing this strategy?
- 7) Which EU institution should have a key role in implementing this strategy?
- 8) What should be the role of other relevant players?
- 9) How should the implementation of Europe 2020 be carried out?
- 10) Is it coherent with the other goals set by the EU itself and by international agreements?
- 11) Is it going to make Europe a true global economic player more resilient to any future crisis?



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The following questions may be the most important ones for the European citizens, which elect the MEPs.

- 1) Can this strategy make Europe competitive enough in the globalized world?
- 2) Is Europe 2020 going to be an impulse for making the EU more resistant to crisis?
- 3) Is this strategy the maximum that can be done until 2020?
- 4) Will Europe have a better climate for entrepreneurship?
- 5) Is Europe 2020 going to attract more investments?
- 6) Is it going to boost job creation?
- 7) Are the European citizens going to be paid properly?
- 8) Are retired Europeans going to be able to have a proper pension?
- 9) Can the European level of social rights be preserved or even raised?
- 10) How will the European citizen see that there are positive changes?
- 11) Ultimately, are European citizens going to live better?

5. Conclusion

The positions of the European institutions are rather clear. The Council of the EU is generally in line with the decisions of the European Council. The same goes for other European players – social partners, civil society and stake holders. However, this is more complicated in the case of the European Parliament with different political groups. The situation gets even more complicated considering that within the European political groups, there are slight differences in positions of national parties that are part of the European political group.

One of the Commissioners found himself in the line of fire while presenting the strategy to a certain EP committee.²⁰ The crisis hit Europe very hard, but it is slowly recovering. There are problems in the eurozone, but they are being solved. It shows that the EU still has power to recover. On the other hand, all those problems show that the European economy is highly sensitive to any negative external and internal stimulus. The EU needs to strengthen its economy. There is no room for inadequate decisions. Now it is time for a very important committee of the Parliament

²⁰ Europe 2020 strategy: how to make it work, information retrieved 11 April 2010, http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/048-69985-063-03-10-908-20100304IPR69984-04-03-2010-2010-false/default_en.htm



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"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - COMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

CHAIRPERSON:
DINO BUKOVSKI & ANDREY STOYCHEV

TOPIC: (B)
EUROPE 2020

for the future of Europe to voice its opinion, hopefully as a broad and a creative, but unique and functional consensus.

Europe 2020 is a document which can be considered as a list of general directions and set priorities for the Union. Thus, the general decision has to be taken by the European Council. It may seem that the Parliament does not have much of a say, but it is necessary to regard the entire European political process as a whole. After the European Council has reached a decision, the most important part of the political process is due in order to reach the set goals – the implementation. General political decisions are implemented and specified through the legislative process. The Council of the EU is generally in line with the decisions of the European Council, since the members of both bodies represent the executive branch of the Member States. However, this is where the Parliament steps in. It will not implement Europe 2020 properly, if it does not agree with it. This is why the Parliament has a very powerful political voice. In addition to that, the Parliament is the only body with directly elected members, by the European citizens. The Parliament is also an instrument for overcoming the existence of the democratic deficit. Thus the Parliament has a real and strong political influence. It represents the will of the Europeans and European political groups (in the Parliament) are to contribute to forming the European political awareness and expressing the will of the citizens of the Union. The Commission, elected by the Parliament, is the creator of Europe 2020. However, the Parliament as the voice of the European citizens needs to exercise political control and have a say on the Europe 2020.

Notice – The Europe 2020 is in the decision-making process at the moment. Almost all policy areas on the European Union are going to be affected by this strategy. Some are being mildly adapted right now. The Lisbon Treaty brings in some changes as well. The changes in European policies are dynamic and could be become more dynamic in the period before the meeting in Sofia.

Suggested Reading and Additional Sources

Topic B: Europe 2020

For a better understanding of the issue, the following sources should be consulted, but they are not exhaustive, therefore it is recommended that the delegates research the topic on their own, both through academic sources, as well as informal channels.

1. COM(2010) 2020, Europe 2020, mandatory reading
2. EUCO 7/10, European Council Conclusions, 26 March 2010, mandatory reading
3. SEC(2010) 114, Lisbon Strategy evaluation document, recommended reading
4. COM(2009) 647, Consultation on the future "EU 2020" Strategy, recommended reading
5. SEC(2010) 116, Europe 2020 – public consultation, First overview of responses
6. Commission proposal for Europe 2020,
http://ec.europa.eu/news/economy/100303_en.htm



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7. European Parliament Parliamentary Committees, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/committeesList.do?language=EN>
8. European Parliament – Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/activities/committees/homeCom.do?language=EN&ody=ECON>
9. EurLex - Access to European Union Law, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index_cnt.html
10. Monitoring the decision – making process, <http://ec.europa.eu/prelex/apcnet.cfm?CL=en>
11. The EP Legislative Observatory, <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/>
12. Council of the European Union, <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/showPage.aspx?id=1&lang=en>
13. European Council, <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/>
14. The Spanish Presidency Website, http://www.eu2010.es/export/sites/presidencia/comun/descargas/Spanish_Presidency_Program.pdf
15. The Spanish Presidency Political Programme, <http://www.eu2010.es/en/presidencia/programapol/>
16. EUobserver, <http://euobserver.com/>
17. EurActiv, <http://www.euractiv.com/>

European Political Groups and National Parties – Members of European Political Groups
EPP - <http://www.eppgroup.eu>; <http://www.epp.eu/>

Member State	Political party	Website
Austria	Austrian People's Party	http://www.oevp.at
Bulgaria	Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB); Union of the Democratic Forces (UDF); Democrats for Strong Bulgaria (DSB)	www.gerb.bg ; http://www.sds.bg ; http://www.dsb.bg
Cyprus	Democratic Rally	http://www.disy.org.cy
Czech Rep	Christian and Democratic Union - Czechoslovak People's Party	http://www.kdu.cz/
Denmark	Conservative People's Party	http://www.konservative.dk
Estonia	Isamaa ja Res Publica Liit	http://www.irl.ee/
Greece	New Democracy	http://en.nd.gr/
Italy	The People of Freedom; Christian Democratic Unit and Christian Democratic Centre; South Tyrol People's Party	http://www.ilpopolodellaliberta.it/ ; http://www.udc-camera.it/ ; http://www.svpartei.org/
Latvia	People's Party; New Era	http://www.tautaspartija.lv/ ; http://www.jaunaislaiks.lv
Luxembourg	Christian-Social People's Party	http://www.csv.lu/
Malta	Nationalist Party	http://www.pn.org.mt/
Poland	Civic Platform of the Republic of Poland; Polish People's Party	http://www.platforma.org ; http://www.psl.org.pl

S&D - <http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu>; <http://www.pes.org/en>

