Joint civil society letter on the social dimension of the EMU.

20 November, Brussels

Dear Members of the European Parliament,

You will vote on the Motion for Resolution on the Social Dimension of the EMU on the 21 November. We, representatives of civil society, are writing to you to vote in favour of an ambitious resolution that sends a strong a political message to Heads of State and Government in December. This is urgently needed. With one out of four people in the EU at risk of poverty or social exclusion and 11% unemployment, It is clear that the current approach has not delivered on the Europe 2020 poverty and employment targets. This resolution will convey that a much stronger commitment is required from the EU and Member States to achieve the social objectives of the EU.

While respecting the political compromise that was reached in the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, in our view the Social Scoreboard can only be effective if social and employment indicators are given equal weight as economic indicators. There will be no real social dimension of the EMU achieved without social considerations having the same consideration of economic ones. The Commission Staff Working Document on Progress on 'GDP and beyond' actions notes the limitations of economic indicators to measure progress towards key societal goals such as well-being and sustainability.

For this reason we call on MEPs to vote in favour of amendment 10.

We applaud the efforts of members of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee to strengthen the democratic legitimacy of EU economic governance processes through enhancing civil dialogue, which is enshrined in article 11 of the Lisbon Treaty and we consider that participation of all sectors of society is needed in the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the integration of the Economic and Monetary Union. Building on Recital 16 of the Integrated Guidelines for Europe 2020 (2010), which called for the engagement of stakeholder in the key elements of the semester, tor the first time the 2014 Annual Growth Survey highlights

that extra efforts are needed underlining for the first time the 2014 Annual Growth Survey highlights the role of civil society in the implementation of the European Semester, as requested by the European Parliament In its resolution of 20 November 2012 'Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union'.

For this reason we ask MEPs to vote against amendment 9 that deletes references to "civil dialogue."

We hope that we can count on your support to strengthen the social dimension of the EMU and enhance its democratic legitimacy. In our view, this is the first step to achieve the inclusive growth pillar of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the commitment of the EU to social cohesion as a whole. Civil society and social partners have to be considered as true partners in developing and implementing European and national policies and reforms, and cannot be used as mere channels for their promotion.

Signatories

AGE Platform Europe

Eurodiaconia

The European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless

The European Anti-Poverty Network

The European Public Health Alliance

Social Platform