

FUTURE OF EUROPE:

European Parliament sets out its vision



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Dear citizens,
Dear Members of the European Parliament,

Our priority is to bridge the gap between citizens and European institutions by listening to them and providing real answers to their problems.

According to the latest Eurobarometer results, Europeans are calling for a more political, democratic and efficient Union. They also want the European Parliament to play a central role in shaping our common future.

We were the first institution to initiate this debate. At the beginning of this year, we adopted the Brok-Bresso, Böge-Bérès and Verhofstadt reports, taking the lead in rethinking the European Union to better respond to citizens' concerns.

It was also thanks to these contributions that the 60-year anniversary of the Treaties of Rome was not just a celebration of our achievements. It was a turning point where European leaders committed to address shared challenges through a united and more effective Europe.

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, presented an ambitious reform agenda in his last State of the Union speech, taking on board most of Parliament's proposals.

Soon after, President Macron expressed a comprehensive vision on the future of the EU, sharing many of the same concerns.

As the only directly elected EU institution representing 500 million citizens, the Parliament has the duty to be the driver of this reflection. We must be at the heart of this debate and we stand ready to host the contributions of all European leaders. This is why the Parliament's political groups have decided to devote a series of debates in plenary to the future of Europe.

Speaking at the last European Council, I presented our plan to Heads of State and Government. One of the items on the Leaders' Agenda, presented by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, at the October European Council, concerns the Spitzenkandidaten. I am sure that the aim is to make that arrangement - which contributes to the strengthening of the political relationship between the Parliament and the Commission - the norm.

Citizens want us to focus on their priorities: terrorism, migration, unemployment, poverty, climate change. As one of the budgetary authorities, we have the responsibility to champion a political budget that reflect these concerns.

This Parliament has pointed out the need to find new own resources several times. I am convinced of that need, and I look forward to having a debate in our House and with the other institutions on this subject.

If the EU is to be more responsive to citizens' expectations and democratically accountable, it must first boost its capacity to act and make the euro zone more resilient to economic shocks, whilst making full use of the Lisbon Treaty. But to go further, it needs to reform itself more substantially.

This document is a living document. It takes note of the common ground reached on different visions on the Future of Europe in key policy fields.

Our citizens' will feel Europe as their home, only if we provide the right answer and protect them. This should be our goal ahead of the next European elections in June 2019. The future of Europe is now.

Antonio Tajani
President of the European Parliament





Europeans expect protection from the EU

The last public opinion survey, Parlemeter 2017, shows the strengthened voice of European citizens, their strengthened belief in the European project - as well as a strengthened image of the European Parliament. It also identifies clear areas where Europeans expect protection from the EU.

A stronger voice: citizens' strengthened belief in the European project

In the context of the renewed debate on the future of Europe, 47% of European citizens feel that their voice counts in the EU, the best result since the 2009 European elections. With 57% of those who responded feeling that EU membership is a good thing for their country, this indicator is also nearly back to its pre-crisis level.

Most said that EU membership has benefitted their country in all Member States. This feeling is growing at EU level by four percentage points compared to 2016 and now registers at 64%. In addition, more citizens find that things are going in the right direction in the EU (31%, +6 compared to March).

Also the European Parliament is seeing an uptick in public opinion. An increase of eight percentage points

now means 33% of all citizens have a positive image of the European Parliament. This increase is coupled with a similar decrease of 7 percentage points to a total of 21% of citizens who have a negative image of the EP, while 42% of those surveyed still have a neutral image.

The survey also identifies areas where Europeans expect protection from the EU. Terrorism comes out, at 58% , as the main threat that Europeans want the EU to offer protection from. The precarious economic situation suffered by many Europeans is intrinsically linked to issues such as unemployment (43%) and poverty and exclusion (42%). Protection against uncontrolled migration, with 35% on average, still ranks highly on citizens' radar.

Secondly, the survey assesses the main accomplishments that citizens want the EU to protect for them. Answers can be categorised in two main types: on one side, fundamental rights (44%) and the freedom to travel, work and study across the EU (36%). On the other side stand economic achievements, namely labour rights (34%), adequate pensions (34%) and economic well-being (33%).

The fieldwork of this survey was carried out between 23 September and 2 October 2017. 27 881 Europeans aged 15 or more were interviewed face-to-face in all 28 Member States.

Mercedes Bresso (S&D, Italy)

"The European Union doesn't need a populist revolution. It needs peace and to adapt to the necessities of our time. This means coping with democratic challenges, providing citizens with social, fiscal, and ecological protection, defending their right to safety in a very degraded international context and delivering on our moral obligations to our neighbours"

A more democratic Europe

In February 2017, the European Parliament put forward a series of ambitious initiatives for the future development of the European Union. The proposal constitutes a response to increased calls for more institutional reforms, due to a wide range of complex international challenges facing the EU and its member states. In its proposals, the European Parliament encourages a broad reflection, both within and beyond the frame of the existing Lisbon Treaty.

Improving the functioning of the European Union and building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty

To begin with, MEPs favour making the most of the current Treaties, and present a range of possible improvements, without having to go through the burdensome process of changing the EU's existing Treaties.

Among many things, Parliament advocates:

- Improving the ways in which the EU legislates. MEPs suggests that the Council should **switch to qualified majority voting**, whenever possible, to avoid blocking important draft laws and speeding up the legislative process,
- The Council of Ministers should be turned into a genuine **second legislative chamber** and its configurations into preparatory bodies, similar to parliamentary Committees,
- A **more democratic** institutional set-up for the **Economic and Monetary Union**, with an enhanced scrutiny role for the European Parliament and national parliaments at EU level,
- Setting up a **permanent Council of Defence Ministers** to coordinate the member states' defence policies, including cybersecurity and anti-terrorism.

Elmar Brok (EPP, Germany)

"We need to be more transparent and we need to make qualified majority voting the default much more often. We need to work together towards a common defence and security policy and we could save incredible amounts of money."

Reimer Böge (EPP, Germany)

"What we want is to reestablish trust, like in an insurance system. Everyone chips in. In the event of a crisis that they cannot cope with alone, everyone receives aid."

Reforming the existing institutions and processes

Besides that, the European Parliament also laid out various possible reforms of the existing Lisbon Treaty, to allow EU institutions to be **more flexible** and **better equipped** to respond to the challenges facing the European Union.

MEPs propose:

- Creating an **EU finance minister** (merge the position of President of the Eurogroup and Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs) and an **EU Foreign Minister** (merge Commission Vice-President/High Representative) in charge of representing the EU in international fora,
- Delivering solidarity to EU countries facing an exceptional economic crisis, by establishing a **European Monetary Fund** with adequate lending and borrowing capacities and a clearly-defined mandate to absorb economic shocks,
- Reducing **the size of the College of Commissioners**,
- Continuing with the successful **"Spitzenkandidaten"**, procedure whereby European political parties promote their lead candidates for the President of the European executive, elected by the European Parliament on a proposal by the European Council,
- **Ending Europe "à la carte"**, with its opt-ins and opt outs and limiting the amount of intergovernmental decisions.

Guy Verhofstadt (ALDE, Belgium)

"I think that there is no other solution for Europe than to do these in-depth reforms we are proposing. Because otherwise, we are going to disintegrate further. It happened already with Brexit. Other countries could follow."

Pervenche Berès (S&D, France)

"If we don't make the euro strong, if we don't make the euro sustainable, if we don't equip it to learn lessons from the crisis, to face up to future challenges, there will be no Europe."

Converging Visions

Security and Justice

EPPO competences

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

The cross-border dimension of the serious crimes that fall under the competences of the EPPO (European Public Prosecutor's Office) could, in the future, be extended (Legislative resolution 29 September 2017);

Calls on the Commission to assess the need to review the mandate of the future EPPO to endow it with powers, once established, to tackle organised crime (Resolution of 25 October 2016 on the fight against corruption and follow-up of the CRIM resolution (2015/2110(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Task the new EPPO with prosecuting cross-border terrorist crimes.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Extend EPPO remit to include terrorism and organised crime.

Europol

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Welcomes the establishment with effect from 1 January 2016 of the European Counter-Terrorism Centre (ECTC), of which the European unit tasked with flagging content will be a part; stresses the need to provide the financial resources required to deliver the additional tasks conferred on Europol in connection with the establishment of the European Counter Terrorist Centre; calls for Parliament to be duly involved in the creation of this centre and in its terms of reference, tasks and finance;

Welcomes the recent adoption of the European Agenda on Security, which proposes important steps towards enhancing the fight against terrorism and radicalisation, such as the creation of the European Counter Terrorist Centre within Europol; calls on the Member States to make full use of existing measures, and calls on the Commission to flag sufficient financial and human resources to effectively deliver on its proposed actions (Resolution of 25 November 2015 on the prevention of radicalisation and recruitment of European citizens by terrorist organisations, 2015/2063(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Bolster Europol's Counter-Terrorism Centre.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

"I want this common culture to be expanded, in the fight against terrorism, to our intelligence services. I thus want a European Intelligence Academy to be created, to strengthen the ties between our countries through training and exchanges."

Defence

European Defence Fund

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

European defence fund/Industrial development legislation in progress in ITRE committee (to be adopted in ITRE in Feb 2018). This will determine the EP's position on these matters. Parliament welcomed Commission's plans for increased financial support for defence research at EU level, and called for the funds to be made available in the current and the next multiannual financial framework. It also invited the Member States to equip their armies with the products produced by the European defence industry. European Parliament resolution of 23 November 2016 on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (based on the Annual Report from the Council to the European Parliament on the Common Foreign and Security Policy) (2016/2067(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates European Defence Fund.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for swift implementation of the European Defence Fund.

Permanent Structured Cooperation

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Swift implementation of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) (Report of 9 January 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI))) PESCO will make it possible to develop self-defence or a permanent structure for self-defence which can strengthen crisis management operations. European Parliament resolution of 16 March 2017 on constitutional, legal and institutional implications of a common security and defence policy: possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty (2015/2343(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in Defence.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for swift implementation of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).

Defence Union

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the members of a future convention to:

Establish the European Armed Forces, capable of deploying combat forces for high intensity conflicts, stabilisation forces which secure cease-fires or peace agreements and evacuation tasks medical services including mobile field hospitals as well as forces for military logistics and military engineering;

Stresses the importance of creating a permanent EU headquarters for civilian and military CSDP missions and operations;

Supports enhancing the role of the EDA. European Parliament resolution of 16 March 2017 on constitutional, legal and institutional implications of a common security and defence policy: possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty (2015/2343(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Calls for creation of a fully-fledged Defence Union by 2025.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for a European initiative and a fully deployable European armed force 'by the beginning of the next decade'.

Institutionalisation of military structures

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls for the institutionalisation of the various European military structures (among others the different battle groups, Euroforces, France-UK defence cooperation and Benelux air defence cooperation) into the EU framework (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI)).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Proposes that national armies open the possibility to host nationals from other EU Member States.

Integration of defence budget

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Encourages the European Council to lead the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy and to provide additional financial resources to ensure its implementation, with a view to its establishment under the next multiannual political and financial framework of the EU (MFF); recalls that the creation of the common Union defence policy is a development and implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy under the Lisbon Treaty, which is bound by international law and is actually indispensable to enable the EU to promote the rule of law, peace and security globally; welcomes in this regard all ongoing activities of Member States aimed at further integrating our common defence efforts (European Parliament resolution of 22 November 2016 on the European Defence Union (2016/2052(INI)));

Strongly supports that Member States coordinate investment in security and defence, as well as increasing financial support for defence research at EU level ; Calls for more flexibility in the EU's financial rules, in order to support its ability to respond to crises, and for the implementation of existing Lisbon Treaty provisions; calls for a revision of the Athena mechanism in order to extend its scope to all costs related, first, to rapid reaction operations and deployment of the EU Battlegroups, and then to all military operations (European Parliament resolution of 16 March 2017 on constitutional, legal and institutional implications of a common security and defence policy: possibilities offered by the Lisbon Treaty (2015/2343(INI))).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates, for the long term (2020-2025), agreeing a common budget and a common defence force i.e. more defence integration.

European civil protection force

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

European Parliament legislative resolution of 10 December 2013 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a Union Civil Protection Mechanism (recast currently underway in ENVI).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for European civil protection force.

Border Control

Romania and Bulgaria's accession to the Schengen area

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

European Parliament adopted on 4 October 2017 a proposal to grant access to the visa information system (VIS) of the Schengen passport free-travel area to Bulgaria and Romania);

The Parliament endorsed without amendment the draft Council decision aiming to grant Bulgaria and Romania passive access, in a read-only mode, to the Visa Information System (VIS) and, in accordance with the agreement reached by the co-legislators on a draft Regulation establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES), it is a precondition for the application of the EES to those Member States.

Legislative resolution of 4 October 2017 on the draft Council decision on the putting into effect of certain provisions of the Schengen acquis relating to the Visa Information System in the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania (2017/0808(CNS));

EP supports the accession of Romania and Bulgaria. At this moment, both Romania and Bulgaria have proved that they are sufficiently prepared to apply all the provisions of the Schengen acquis in a satisfactory manner.

Legislative resolution of 8 June 2011 on the draft Council decision on the full application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the Republic of Bulgaria and Romania (2010/0820(NLE)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Admit Romania and Bulgaria to the Schengen area.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

No speech point. During his official visit to Romania August 2017 he stated that Romania was right to ask to join the Schengen area of free movement after fulfilling the requirements.

Croatia's accession to the Schengen area

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

EP approved a draft decision on the application of the provisions relating to the Schengen information system (SIS), which it considered a very first step towards lifting the checks at the EU internal borders to Croatia. The lifting of borders will be subject to a separate Council decision at a later stage, following further evaluations.

Legislative resolution of 5 April 2017 on the proposal for a Council decision on the application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in the area of the Schengen Information System in the Republic of Croatia (2017/0011(NLE)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Await the October/November 2017 assessment whether Croatia fulfils the requirements for joining the Schengen area.

Migration and Africa

Reform Dublin system

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Decision to enter into negotiations adopted on 19 October 2017 in LIBE Committee on Establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (recast)

Since 2009, the European Parliament has been consistently calling for a binding mechanism for the fair distribution of asylum-seekers among all EU Member States.

Points out that further steps are necessary to ensure that the CEAS (Common European Asylum System) becomes a truly uniform system;

As one option for a fundamental overhaul of the Dublin system, suggests establishing a central collection of applications at Union level, viewing each asylum seeker as seeking asylum in the Union as a whole and not in an individual Member State;

A central system for the allocation of responsibility for any persons seeking asylum in the EU;

Recommends that EASO be developed, in the long term, into a principal coordinator of the CEAS with a view to guaranteeing common application of the Dublin system;

Considers that the current criterion whereby the Member State of first entry is responsible for the examination of a claim for international protection should be revised. Resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration (2015/2095(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Call for Reform Dublin System.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates harmonisation of asylum procedures and establishment of a European Asylum Office.

Improve conditions for migrants in Libya

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Believes that economic recovery is an important step towards Libya's democratic transition; fully supports the new Libyan authorities in their fight against terrorists to ensure the necessary protection of Libya's people and critical economy infrastructures;

Expresses its grave concern at the fate of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Libya, whose already unbearable situation continues to deteriorate; requests the greater involvement of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in coordinating UN efforts; calls for the EU and its Member States to tackle effectively the spiralling migration and refugee flows from North Africa, in particular from Libya; calls on the Libyan authorities and militias to ensure external access to detention facilities, particularly those for migrants;

Calls on the Commission and the European External Action Service, which is coordinating Member States' action in Libya, to focus their support on state-building and institution building and, together with the Member States, the UN, NATO and regional partners, to assist in the reform of the security sector and the creation, under the control of the GNA, of effective national army and police forces able to control the entire Libyan territory and its waters, and secure its borders; stresses that the EU should also give priority to assisting the reform of the Libyan justice system, as well as other fields crucial for democratic governance;

Endorses the EU NAVFOR MED Sophia operation in its efforts to tackle the migration crisis and the smugglers who exploit migrants; recalls that the success of the operation is directly linked to the sustainability of the political dialogue in Libya and the need to restore peace and stability in the country; calls for an agreement with the GNA to enable the EU mission to conduct necessary operations in Libyan territorial waters;

Appreciates that the EU has already made available a 100-million-euro package and is ready to offer immediate support in areas that will be prioritised together with the new Libyan GNA once formed; calls on the EU and the UN to plan assistance for state-building, security and peacekeeping, as well as training in implementing emergency and disaster response capabilities, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Call to improve conditions for migrants in Libya.

Returns policy

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Acknowledges that, in the light of the fact that, in 2014, 36 % of third country nationals who were ordered to leave the Union were effectively returned, there is a need to improve the effectiveness of the Union's return system;

Considers that in order to increase the efficiency of readmissions, and in order to ensure the coherence of returns at a European level, it will be necessary to adopt new EU readmission agreements which should take preference over bilateral agreements between Member States and third countries;

Believes that the return of migrants should only be carried out in full compliance with their fundamental rights, ensuring that the country to which they are being returned is safe for them;

Suggests that any attempt by Member States to 'push back' migrants who have not been given the opportunity to present asylum claims runs contrary to Union and international law, and that the Commission should take appropriate action against any Member State that attempts such 'push backs'(Resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration (2015/2095(INI))

Recalls that migrants have the right not to be sent to countries where they risk ill-treatment and torture; recalls that collective deportations and push back are prohibited under international law; expresses concern at the treatment of migrants who are forcibly returned to their countries of origin or to third countries without adequate follow-up of their situation, and calls, whatever the situation, for account to be taken of the difficulties that they encounter when they return to these countries;

Proposes the introduction of reintegration programmes for migrants returning to their countries of origin;

(European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2016 on human rights and migration in third countries, 2015/2316(INI));

Points out that mass expulsions and refoulement are prohibited under international law; Is worried about the unlimited returns of Afghan citizens, whether on a voluntary basis or not; Recalls that returns can only take place after due consideration of each individual case in full respect of their rights, and calls on the EU and the Member States to allocate the necessary resources to speed up current administrative and judicial procedures;

Recalls the importance of a balanced approach in the new Partnership Framework; warns against any quantitative approach in the new Partnership Framework and the related 'migration compacts', which would consider the 'measurable increases in the number and rate of returns' as the EU's main goal;

Encourages those responsible in the field of foreign and development policy to ensure that people who are returned are treated properly and that their integrity is preserved; calls on the Commission and the Member States to draw up flanking programmes to ensure that practical assistance programmes are carried out in the countries of origin that comprise both vocational training measures and programmes aimed at building economic structures, including start-ups and small businesses, alongside professional and academic exchange programmes with the Member States;

(European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2017 on addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU External Action (2015/2342(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Call to step up returns policy.

Legal pathways for migration and Blue card

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Stresses that the opening up of safe and legal channels to asylum-seekers and potential migrants would allow them to use formal entry and exit channels, thus denying business to human traffickers and associated organised crime networks; stresses that the lack of legal avenues for migration often leads to an increase in irregular methods of mobility, which translates in turn into greater vulnerability and the risk of abuse during all stages of the migratory and refugee movement (Resolution of 5 April 2017 on addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU External Action (2015/2342(INI)));

Members propose to extend the scope to include third-country nationals who already hold a residence permit in a Member State for the purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing;

Persons applying for international protection should be subject to the same rules as any other third-country national falling within the scope of the Directive (Report on reforming the EU Blue Card scheme, confirmed in Plenary on 3 July 2016/0176(COD));

(...) points out that the lack of legal avenues into the EU in order to seek protection generates a constant demand for irregular avenues, thus endangering vulnerable migrants in need of international protection;

(Resolution of 9 July 2015 on the European Agenda on Security, 2015/2697(RSP));

Notes that the existing legislative framework is rather fragmented, as it focuses on specific categories of workers rather than on regulating, generally, all migrant workers; takes the view that, in the long run, the Union will need to establish more general rules governing the entry and residence for those third-country nationals seeking employment in the Union to fill the gaps identified in the Union labour market; believes that the Blue Card Directive should focus not just on the highly-qualified, but also on targeted high-qualification occupations where there are proven labour shortages;

(Resolution of 12 April 2016 on the situation in the Mediterranean and the need for a holistic EU approach to migration (2015/2095(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates legal pathways for migration and Blue Card for skilled migrants.

Africa Trust Fund

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Notes that the EU's financial allocation for the EU Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF) currently comes mainly from the 11th European Development Fund; stresses that the EUTF was established because the EU budget and the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) lack the resources and the flexibility needed to address the different dimensions of such crises promptly and comprehensively; calls for the EU to agree to find a more holistic solution for emergency funding in the framework of this year's revision of the 2014-2020 MFF and the revision of the external financing instruments in 2016, with a view to increasing the effectiveness and reactivity of humanitarian and development assistance available under the EU budget (Resolution of 13 September 2016 on the EU Trust Fund for Africa: the implications for development and humanitarian aid (2015/2341(INI));

Stresses that the use of the EDF to finance the EUTF for Africa may have an impact on the aid recipient African countries which are not covered by the Trust Fund, and in particular the least developed countries (LDCs);

Deeply regrets the fact that, despite the continued importance of ODA for LDCs, the already low levels of development assistance to LDCs declined for the second year in a row in 2014, and that the proportion of aid allocated to those countries is at its lowest for ten years; calls on the Commission and the Member States, accordingly, to make sure that aid is not diverted away from the poorest countries to cover the cost of the current crises;

Deplores the fact that the trust funds result in bypassing the budgetary authority and undermining the unity of the budget; notes that the fact that this ad hoc instrument has been set up is an acknowledgement that the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) is undersized; points out that Member State contributions make up 85 % of the Union budget; considers that setting up the EUTF is de facto tantamount to revising the ceilings for the current MFF by increasing Member State contributions; stresses, therefore, that the creation of funding instruments outside the EU budget must remain exceptional; deplores the fact that Parliament is not represented on the Strategic Board, despite the fact that substantial funds come from the Union budget; calls for the budgetary authority to be invited to participate in the Strategic Board;

(European Parliament resolution of 13 September 2016 on the EU Trust Fund for Africa: the implications for development and humanitarian aid (2015/2341(INI));

Points out that EUR 3,6 billion was supposed to be paid into the emergency trust fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa, launched at the Valletta Summit; calls on the Member States to match the EUR 1,8 billion released by the Commission;

(European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2017 on addressing refugee and migrant movements: the role of EU External Action (2015/2342(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Tackling migration at the source: Africa Trust Fund.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Tackling migration at the source: Africa partnership and focus on the Mediterranean, as well as a tax on European financial transactions to finance development aid.

Single Market, Social Europe and Taxation

EU consumer protection and food safety

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Emphasises that, according to the findings of various surveys, consumers are concerned on a long-term basis about possible differences in the quality of products with the same brand and packaging which are distributed in the single market; considers that consumers in different Member States do not enjoy access to the same level of quality when buying products with the same brand and packaging in the single market; stresses that discrimination between consumers in any form is unacceptable;

Calls on the Commission to carry out a meaningful investigation into this issue that would make it possible to evaluate whether there is a need for adjustment of existing Union legislation; calls on the Commission to inform the European Parliament and consumers on the outcome of the investigation (Resolution of 11 June 2013 on a new agenda for European Consumer Policy (2012/2133(INI));

Notes that recent food fraud cases have exposed different types of food fraud, such as the replacement of key ingredients with cheaper or lower quality alternatives, the incorrect labelling of the animal species used in meat or seafood products, the incorrect labelling of weight, the sale of ordinary foods as organic, the unfair use of quality logos designating origin or animal welfare, the labelling of aquaculture fish as fish caught in the wild or the marketing of an inferior variety of fish under the name of a superior category or a more expensive species, and the counterfeiting and marketing of food past its 'use-by' date;

(Resolution of 14 January 2014 on the food crisis, fraud in the food chain and the control thereof (2013/2091 (INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Equip national authorities with stronger powers to better enforce EU consumer and food quality laws and cut out illegal practices wherever they exist.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Supports President Juncker's proposal to put an end to double standards on food, to combat fraud and guarantee food security.

Fighting abuse of labour mobility laws

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Urges the Commission to finalise and submit the labour mobility package by the end of the year, also addressing the negative effects of labour mobility; calls for strong cross-border labour inspections to fight abuse; considers that mobility across Europe is a basic right; calls on the Commission, furthermore, to take action to promote the integration and employability of European workers; reminds the Commission of its commitment regarding the Posting of Workers Directive (Resolution of 16 September 2015 on the Commission Work Programme 2016 (2015/2729(RSP));

Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure more effective implementation of existing legislation and to enhance the cooperation between Member State entities responsible for labour inspections, especially as regards cross-border labour inspections (resolution of 14 September 2016 on social dumping in the European Union (2015/2255(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Create a common Labour Authority – a European inspection and enforcement body to ensure that all EU rules on labour mobility are enforced in a fair, simple and effective manner.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Supports President Juncker's proposal for a European inspection and enforcement body to ensure that all EU rules on labour mobility are enforced in a fair, simple and effective manner.

Social Europe

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Takes a life-cycle approach and calls on the Commission to build on the review of the social acquis and of EU employment and social policies as well as on the outcomes of the 2016 public consultation by making proposals for a solid European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) that is not limited to a declaration of principles or good intentions but reinforces social rights through concrete and specific tools (legislation, governance mechanisms and financial instruments), delivering a positive impact on people's lives in the short and medium term and enabling support for European construction in the 21st century by effectively upholding the Treaties' social objectives, supporting national welfare states, strengthening cohesion, solidarity and upward convergence in economic and social outcomes, ensuring adequate social protection, reducing inequality, achieving long overdue progress in reducing poverty and social exclusion, facilitating national reform efforts through benchmarking and helping to improve the functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and of the EU's single market (Resolution of 19 January 2017 on a European Pillar of Social Rights (2016/2095(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Address social dumping by agreeing on the European Pillar of Social Rights – setting the basis for a European Social Standards Union (e.g. same pay for the same work in the same place) - as soon as possible and at the latest at the Gothenburg Social Summit in November 2017.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Encourage EU-wide convergence, setting rules and criteria (in the coming months and as the basis of MFF discussions) that gradually bring social and tax models closer together (e.g. minimum wage adapted to the reality of each country but progressively converging; convergence of social contributions towards the highest level but to the benefit of the country of origin. This money would feed into a solidarity fund to benefit the poorest countries and help them converge).

Common consolidated corporate tax

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the European Council to make use of the 'passerelle clause' (Article 48(7) TEU) authorising the Council to switch from unanimity to QMV in applicable cases where the Treaties currently require unanimity;

Considers it necessary to improve automatic information exchange among national tax authorities in order to prevent tax fraud and tax evasion, tax planning, base erosion and profit shifting, as well as to promote coordinated actions to fight tax havens; calls for the adoption of a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base directive establishing a minimum rate and spelling out common objectives for progressive convergence; deems it necessary to embark on a comprehensive review of the existing VAT legislation, addressing inter alia the introduction of the country of origin principle;

Stresses the importance of taking full advantage of the enhanced cooperation procedure enshrined in Article 20 TEU, especially among euro area Member States, so that those Member States wishing to establish enhanced cooperation among themselves as part of the non-exclusive competences of the Union are able, through this mechanism, to promote the attainment of the objectives of the Union and strengthen their integration process subject to the limits of and in accordance with the arrangements laid down in Articles 326 to 334 TFEU (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI));

ECON to vote on the CC(C)TB proposals in December 2017.

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Qualified majority voting for decisions on the common consolidated corporate tax base, on VAT, on fair taxes for the digital industry and on the financial transaction tax.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Accelerate the harmonisation of corporate tax (between France and Germany within the next 4 years) by agreeing, by 2020, on a range of rates that would bind Member States. Respecting this range would be a prerequisite for access to European cohesion funds.

Digital, Innovation and Industrial Policy

Industrial Digitalisation Strategy

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the Commission to develop, by early 2018, together with the Member States, a Union strategy and an action plan for a consistent and comprehensive industrial policy aimed at Europe's reindustrialisation, with targets, indicators, measures and time scales (Resolution of 5 July 2017 on building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe (2017/2732(RSP)));

Strongly believes that an Industrial Digitalisation Strategy is of critical importance in contributing to solving Europe's most pressing economic and societal challenges [...] (resolution of 1 June 2017 on digitising European industry (2016/2271(INI)));

Calls on the Commission to include the digital integration of manufacturing as an ICT standardisation priority, and encourages the development of open standards for the communication protocol and data formats for the digital integration of manufacturing equipment in order to ensure full interoperability between machines and devices [...] regrets that the Joint Initiative on Standardisation (JIS) and the Annual Union Work Programme for European standardisation (AUWP) pay no attention to the accreditation of testing institutions and standards, and calls on the Commission to take this aspect into account when proposing new initiatives, (Resolution of 4 July 2017 on European standards for the 21st century (2016/2274(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Calls for new Industrial Policy strategy based on innovation, digitisation and decarbonisation.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for global promotion of the EU model combining innovation and regulation / security.

Space strategy for Europe

Highlights the fact that Parliament should play an active role in the development of EU space policy and that it should be involved in all exchanges conducted by the Commission, the Council, the European External Action Service and the European Space Agency on space-related topics;

Considers that democratic support is important for investing in space; calls on the Commission to present a well-designed and comprehensive communication strategy about the benefits of space technologies for citizens and businesses; urges the Commission, in implementing this strategy, to base it on the following three pillars, each addressing an important audience group: (a) raising awareness with the public of the necessity of investments in space; (b) informing SMEs and entrepreneurs about the opportunities of the space flagship programmes; (c) including space in education in order to close the skills gap; asks the Commission to present Parliament with a roadmap on the creation of this communication strategy as soon as possible;

Calls on the Commission to draw up a timetable for the implementation of the measures proposed in the strategy, to report regularly on its implementation, to propose legislation where necessary and to devise additional concrete and tangible actions needed to achieve in a timely fashion the aims outlined in the strategy;

(Resolution of 12 September 2017 on a Space Strategy for Europe (2016/2325(INI))).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for an ambitious EU space policy.

EU Blue Card Directive

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

EU co-legislators working on the Commission proposal on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purposes of highly skilled employment, i.e. EU Blue Card Directive.

Mandate adopted in Plenary on 3 July 2017 on Blue card for higher professional skills, refugees and asylum seekers.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for measures to attract foreign talent: scientists and entrepreneurs.

Cybersecurity

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Asks for a revision of the remit of the EU Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) and a strengthening of the national cybersecurity agencies; calls for ENISA to be reinforced in terms of its tasks, staff and resources; stresses that the new mandate should also include stronger links with Europol and industry stakeholders, to allow the agency to better support the competent authorities in the fight against cybercrime (Resolution of 3 October 2017 on the fight against cybercrime (2017/2068(INI))

Calls on the Commission to advance policies and a legal framework to tackle cybercrime and illegal content and materials on the internet;

Calls for efforts to improve resilience against cyber-attacks, with an increased role for ENISA;

Calls for a harmonised response from the EU and its Member States with a view to ensuring a high level of network and information security; believes that providing security on the internet entails the protection of networks and critical infrastructure, ensuring the ability of law enforcement agencies to fight crime, (Resolution of 19 January 2016 on Towards a Digital Single Market Act (2015/2147(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates European Cybersecurity Agency.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates strengthening European cybersecurity.

EU Agency for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the Commission to investigate whether it would be desirable for the registration system and the register to be managed by a designated EU Agency for Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (Resolution of 16 February 2017 with recommendations to the Commission on Civil Law Rules on Robotics (2015/2103(INL)).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates establishing – within 2 years – an Agency for breakthrough innovation, jointly funding new fields of research, such as artificial intelligence, or those that have yet to be explored (possible Franco-German alliance to give first impetus).

Copyright and data protection and taxation in the digital economy

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Recalls that many EU policies also apply to online platforms, but notes that in some cases the legislation is not enforced properly or is interpreted in a different manner in the Member States; stresses the importance of proper implementation and enforcement of EU legislation prior to considering whether there is a need to complement the current legal framework in order to remedy this situation (Resolution of 15 June 2017 on online platforms and the digital single market (2016/2276(INI));

Calls on the European Council to make use of the 'passerelle clause' (Article 48(7) TEU) authorising the Council to switch from unanimity to QMV in applicable cases where the Treaties currently require unanimity (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI));

EU co-legislators working on the proposals on copyright in the digital single market and on e-Privacy while the General Data Protection Regulation will be applicable from 25 May 2018.

ECON amending the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base proposal so that it includes taxation in the digital economy.

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Calls for new rules to protect intellectual property, cultural diversity and personal data;

Advocates moving to qualified majority voting for decisions on fair taxes for the digital industry.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Call to ensure equity and confidence in the digital transformation by defining norms, by rethinking the tax system (taxation of digital companies, through a tax on value created), by regulating the major platforms and by protecting copyright in a digital era.

Data Protection

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Take a cautious approach to the negotiation of chapters concerning data and privacy protection (Resolution of 3 February 2016 containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the Commission on the negotiations for the Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) (2015/2233(INI));

Ensure that the EU's acquis on data privacy is not compromised through the liberalisation of data flows, in particular in the area of e-commerce and financial services, while recognizing the relevance of data flows as a backbone of transatlantic trade and the digital economy (Resolution of 8 July 2015 containing the European Parliament's recommendations to the European Commission on the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) (2014/2228(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates "exporting" Europe's standards on data protection.

Climate, Energy and Sustainable Development

Reducing carbon emissions in the transport sector

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the Commission and the co-legislators to follow a more integrated approach in their policies to improve the environmental performance of cars, in order to ensure progress on both the decarbonisation and air quality objectives, such as by fostering the electrification or transition to alternative motorisations of the car fleet;

Calls on the Commission, to that end, to review the Clean Power for Transport Directive (2014/94/EU) and to come forward with a draft regulation on CO2 standards for the car fleets coming onto the market from 2025 onwards, with the inclusion of Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) and ULEV mandates that impose a stepwise increasing share of zero- and ultra-low-emission vehicles in the total fleet with the aim of phasing out new CO2-emitting cars by 2035 (Recommendation of 4 April 2017 to the Council and the Commission following the inquiry into emission measurements in the automotive sector 2016/2908(RSP));

Emphasises the importance of promoting the introduction of alternative fuels and propulsion systems, in particular those for which Europe has a major technological advantage, in order to reduce transport's dependence on fossil fuels, improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; deplores the fact that those technologies have still not been sufficiently deployed, especially in public transport (Resolution of 9 September 2015 on the implementation of the 2011 White Paper on Transport: taking stock and the way forward towards sustainable mobility (2015/2005(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Outlines proposals to reduce carbon emissions in the transport sector;

Invest in clean cars of tomorrow;

Link to industrial policy.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates European industrial programme to support clean vehicles and the required infrastructure (charging stations, etc.).

Minimum carbon price and an EU carbon tax

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Ongoing trilogue negotiations on the revision of the emissions trading system (ETS) for 2021-2030 period. In order to support prices, the Parliament initially proposed that 800 million allowances be taken out from the Market Stability Reserve as of 1 January 2021, thus removing two times more allowances from the market (24%) than foreseen in the Commission proposal (12 %) and the cancellation of 800 million allowances upfront, in 2021.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for fixed, minimum carbon price within the EU (worth over 25-30 euros per ton);

Calls for a carbon tax at EU borders.

Territorial transition contracts

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Ongoing trilogue negotiations on the revision of the emissions trading system (ETS) for 2021-2030 period. The Parliament supports the setting up of a Just Transition Fund with 2% of auctioned revenues set aside to support regions with a high share of workers in carbon-dependent sectors and a GDP per capita well below the Union average.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for territorial transition contracts.

Connections and energy infrastructure

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Insists, therefore, that the Energy Union should ensure equal access to energy for all, contribute to affordable energy prices for the benefit of consumers, promote connections and energy infrastructure that have a strategic role for the benefit of the people, and strengthen regulation (Resolution of 15 December 2015 on Towards a European Energy Union (2015/2113(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Increase the use of qualified majority voting for decisions on energy infrastructure.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for a better functioning Energy Union with better interconnections.

Common Agricultural Policy

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Notes, however, that the common agricultural policy (CAP) must be enabled to better respond to current and future challenges; calls on the Commission to examine how the CAP and sustainable farming systems can best contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in order to guarantee stable, safe and nutritious food as well as protecting and enhancing natural resources while tackling climate change; asks the Commission, in the framework of the upcoming communication on the post-2020 CAP, to come forward with proposals to further improve the efficiency of greening measures and to ensure the attainment of SDGs 2, 3, 6, 12, 13, 14 & 15; calls on the Commission also to promote locally and ecologically produced food with a low carbon, land and water footprint (Resolution of 6 July 2017 on EU action for sustainability (2017/2009(INI))).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with stronger emphasis on food safety and greening.

Trade

New trade agreements

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Welcomes the new trade and investment strategy for the European Union, Trade for All (Resolution of 12 September 2017 on the impact of international trade and the EU's trade policies on global value chains (2016/2301(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Calls for new trade agreements with targeted countries.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Yes to new trade agreements but not on the basis of old rules.

Transparency

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Parliament has the right under Article 218(10) TFEU to be fully and immediately informed at all stages of the procedure for negotiating and concluding international agreements (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Calls for greater transparency: publication of all draft and final negotiating mandates.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for greater transparency in negotiations.

Reciprocity

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls on the Commission to focus, in a balanced way and with due respect for reciprocity and mutual benefits, on the conclusion of the on-going trade negotiations, and calls on it to assess the possible cumulated impact, in particular for those sensitive products affected by quotas or liberalisation under ongoing negotiations or trade agreements already concluded; (Resolution of 5 July 2016 on a new forward-looking and innovative future strategy for trade and investment (2015/2105(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Increase reciprocity.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates reciprocity.

Export European standards

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Emphasises that trade and investment policy should aim to provide leverage, to create a level playing field for European businesses, promote European competitiveness and facilitate upward convergence on standards; calls on the Commission to ensure coherence between the EU's environmental, public health, trade, investment and industrial policies, and to promote the European reindustrialisation strategy and the transition towards a low-carbon economy (Resolution of 12 September 2017 on the impact of international trade and the EU's trade policies on global value chains (2016/2301(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates "exporting" European social, environmental, data protection and food safety standards.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Emphasises social and environmental standards.

Defend strategic interests

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Recalls that the current EU trade defence legislation dates back to 1995; stresses that the Union's trade defence system needs to be modernised urgently without being weakened; points out that EU trade defence law must be more effective, more accessible for SMEs and adapted to today's challenges and trade patterns, that investigations must be shorter and that transparency and predictability must be increased (Resolution of 5 July 2016 on a new forward-looking and innovative future strategy for trade and investment (2015/2105(INI));

Calls on the Commission, together with the Member States, to screen third country FDI in the EU in strategic industries, infrastructure and key future technologies, or other assets that are important in the interests of security and protection of access to them, while bearing in mind that Europe depends to a large extent on FDI; calls on the Commission to pay more attention to the role of foreign-based state-owned enterprises that are supported and subsidised by their governments in ways that the EU single market rules prohibit for EU entities (Resolution of 5 July 2017 on Building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Defending strategic interests: call for a new EU framework for investment screening.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Defending strategic interests: call for a European trade prosecutor.

Implementation of trade agreements

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

'Calls on the Commission to regularly update its trade and investment strategy and to publicly present every two years a detailed implementation report to Parliament, starting in 2017, to ensure that it delivers on its promises; calls on the Commission to include in these reports the progress of the ongoing trade negotiations and the implementation of the current trade agreements' (Resolution of 5 July 2017 on Building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe);

'Making the monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of existing agreements a key priority for EU trade policy: Welcomes the Commission proposal for an enhanced partnership with Parliament and stakeholders for the implementation of trade agreements; emphasises that Parliament needs to be involved and fully informed, in a timely manner, at all stages of the procedure, including by means of a systematic consultation with the Parliament prior to the drafting of negotiating mandates; points out that the Commission is under an obligation to inform Parliament about its activities concerning the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of trade and investment agreements (...) Insists that the monitoring, evaluation and follow-up of existing agreements become a key priority of the CCP; calls on the Commission to re-allocate adequate resources in order to enable DG Trade to better monitor trade agreements that need to be implemented considering the growing negotiating agenda; asks the Commission to establish specific indicators, in order to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of trade agreements and, to publicly and regularly present a substantial and detailed implementation report to Parliament indicating, for instance, the performance of EU industries and the impact of the agreements on different sectors and their respective market shares' (Resolution of 5 July 2017 on Building an ambitious EU industrial strategy as a strategic priority for growth, employment and innovation in Europe).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

'The Commission must bring ongoing work to a successful conclusion: first, by carefully implementing achieved agreements so as to ensure that the new opportunities create real benefits on the ground.' (Commission Report on the Implementation of the Trade Policy Strategy Trade for All: Delivering a Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation, 13/09/2017);

- Announced a forthcoming Report on Implementation of Free Trade Agreements (Commission Report on the Implementation of the Trade Policy Strategy Trade for All: Delivering a Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation, 13/09/2017);
- Civil society oversight is currently focused on trade and sustainable development chapters. In future negotiations, it will be proposed to extend oversight of civil society in both EU and partner country to all provisions of FTAs. (Commission Report on the Implementation of the Trade Policy Strategy Trade for All: Delivering a Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation, 13/09/2017);
- Proposal for an advisory group on EU Trade Agreements to provide advice on EU trade negotiations and their implementation (Commission Report on the Implementation of the Trade Policy Strategy Trade for All: Delivering a Progressive Trade Policy to Harness Globalisation, 13/09/2017).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

p. 22 'we need the trade agreements to be implemented'.

EMU

Joining the euro

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

The euro is the currency of the European Union; all Member States, with the exception of those having a derogation, are committed to joining the euro and therefore to joining the Banking Union (Resolution of 15 February 2017 on Banking Union – Annual Report 2016 (2016/2247(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Facilitate access to the euro area to all Member States through a Euro-accession Instrument, offering technical and even financial assistance.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Sees the euro as the single currency of the European Union as a whole. Stresses need to make the euro area more efficient and more attractive. It's a question of unity.

Euro area budget

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

As a first step, the specific euro-area budgetary capacity should be part of the Union budget, over and above the current ceilings of the multiannual financial framework, and should be financed by euro-area and other participating members via a source of revenue to be agreed between participating Member States and considered to be assigned revenue and guarantees; once in a steady state, the fiscal capacity could be financed through own resources, following the recommendations of the Monti report on the future financing of the EU (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area (2015/2344(INI)))

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

No parallel structures: no specific euro area budget, but a strong dedicated line in the overall EU budget.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Advocates strong euro area with a specific euro budget financed through European taxes e.g. in the digital or environmental area, and through a percentage of its members' corporate tax, once harmonised;

Calls for a separate euro area budget. That budget would help withstand macroeconomic shocks, reduce economic divergences and develop common goods through investment.

Democratic accountability

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

The European Parliament should review its rules and organisation to ensure the full democratic accountability of the fiscal capacity to MEPs from participating Member States (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area (2015/2344(INI));

The Parliament of the euro area is the European Parliament (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

The Parliament of the euro area is the European Parliament.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Not mentioned in that speech, but President Macron previously called for the creation of a euro area Parliament.

European Minister of Economy and Finance

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

The positions of President of the Eurogroup and Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs could be merged, and in such a case the President of the Commission should appoint this Commissioner as Vice-President of the Commission;

A finance minister and treasury within the Commission should be fully democratically accountable and equipped with all necessary means and capacities to apply and enforce the existing economic governance framework and to optimise the development of the euro area in cooperation with the ministers of finance of the euro-area Member States (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area (2015/2344(INI)));

Believes it is possible to merge the position of President of the Eurogroup and Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, and would in such case propose that the President of the Commission appoints this Commissioner as Vice-President of the Commission (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates appointing a European Minister of Economy and Finance (possibly conceived as a Vice-President for economic and financial affairs, as well as chair of Eurogroup) that promotes and supports structural reforms in Member States. The new Minister should coordinate all EU financial instruments that can be deployed if a Member State is in a recession or hit by a fundamental crisis. He or she must be accountable to the European Parliament.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for strong political leadership and coordination of economic policies under a common Minister (no indication as to who should fulfil the role) under parliamentary control at European level.

Joining the Banking Union

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Encourages all Member States that have not yet adopted the euro to take all necessary steps to do so, or to join the Banking Union, in order to progressively align the Banking Union with the entire internal market (Resolution of 15 February 2017 on Banking Union – Annual Report 2016 (2016/2247(INI))).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Encourages all Member States to join the Banking Union to ensure that all banks operate under the same rules and under the same supervision.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Not mentioned.

European Monetary Fund

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

The European Stability Mechanism, while fulfilling its ongoing tasks, should be further developed and turned into a European Monetary Fund (EMF) with adequate lending and borrowing capacities and a clearly defined mandate, to absorb asymmetric and symmetric shocks (Resolution of 16 February 2017 on budgetary capacity for the euro area (2015/2344(INI))) and resolution of 16 February 2017 on improving the functioning of the European Union building on the potential of the Lisbon Treaty (2014/2249(INI))

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates turning the European Stability Mechanism (ESM) into a European Monetary Fund (concrete proposals forthcoming in December). As access to ESM support is contingent on participation in the Fiscal Compact, this will also have to be the case when the European Monetary Fund is created.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Not mentioned in that speech, but President Macron previously called for a European Monetary Fund in his speech in Athens in early September 2017.

Education and Youth

European Solidarity Corps

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

EP working on the Commission proposal with a view to adopting its position in January 2018.

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Praises creation of the European Solidarity Corps, first announced in the 2016 State of the Union speech.

Student mobility and multilingualism

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls for the gradual incorporation of student mobility into official university curricula;

Calls on the Member States, the EU and the European Higher Education Area to strengthen mobility by fostering language learning, removing administrative obstacles, providing adequate financial support mechanism and guaranteeing the transferability of grants, scholarships and credits (Resolution of 28 April 2015 on follow-up on the implementation of the Bologna Process (2015/2039(INI)));

Taking into account the importance of multilingualism in raising the employability of young people, considers that more efforts should be made to promote and support multilingualism in the Erasmus+ programme (Resolution of 14 September 2017 on the future of the Erasmus+ programme (2017/2740(RSP))).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Calls for a network of European universities that enables students to study abroad in at least 2 languages [at least 20 universities by 2024 while the first ones should be operation next year].

Erasmus+

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Calls for the introduction of large-scale youth exchanges based on the structure of the European Voluntary Service;

Welcomes the increases in budget funds;

Calls on the Commission to increase apprentice mobility;

Calls on the Member States and the Commission to remove financial barriers and give better recognition of international work/study outcomes;

Regrets regional imbalances in participation rates. Resolution 2 February 2017;

Believes the programme should focus on lifelong learning and mobility and considers it an ideal opportunity to align priorities of the successor of Erasmus+ with the EU Youth Strategy and other EU-funded programmes;

Encourages the use of regional and social funds to increase the financial contribution of Member States to Erasmus+ mobility funds;

Urges the Commission and Member States to reinforce the opportunities for VET learner mobility;

Wants the programme to be more open and accessible;

(Resolution of 14 September 2017 on the future of the Erasmus+ programme (2017/2740(RSP))).

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Strengthen exchanges to enable half of the school population under the age of 25 to spend at least 6 months in another EU Member State [by 2024].

Enlargement

Serbia, Montenegro accession

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Montenegro:

Welcomes the continued progress in Montenegro's EU integration; welcomes the fact that Montenegro has achieved steady progress in the accession negotiations, noting that so far 26 chapters have been opened for negotiations and two have been provisionally closed; calls on the Council to speed up negotiations with Montenegro; encourages the opening and closing of further chapters in the accession negotiations in 2017; commends the adoption by the Montenegrin Government of the 2017-2018 Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the EU (Resolution of 16 March 2017 on the 2016 Commission Report on Montenegro (2016/2309(INI));

Serbia:

Welcomes the continued engagement of Serbia on the path of integration into the EU and its constructive and well-prepared approach to the negotiations, which is a clear sign of determination and political will; calls on Serbia to continue to actively promote and communicate this strategic decision among the Serbian population, including by promoting enhanced awareness of Serbian citizens about funding from the EU (Resolution of 14 June 2017 on the 2016 Commission Report on Serbia (2016/2311(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Advocates preparing the ground for enlargement during the next Commission's mandate (Serbia, Montenegro);

Recommends focus on rule of law, fundamental rights and the fight against corruption, and on the overall stability of the region.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

'Open up to the Balkans once they fully respect the EU acquis and democratic requirements'

Freeze Turkey's accession

PARLIAMENT'S VIEWS

Recalls its position from November 2016 to freeze the accession process with Turkey (Resolution of 6 July 2017 on the 2016 Commission Report on Turkey (2016/2308(INI)).

STATE OF THE UNION - JUNCKER

Rules out accession of Turkey for the foreseeable future, due to infringements of rule of law, justice and fundamental rights - although the hands of the EU remain outstretched to the Turkish people.

INITIATIVE FOR EUROPE - MACRON

Clearly states that Turkey does not yet fulfil the requirements for accession.



