

EUROPE 2020 – a first analysis

Brussels, 4 March 2010

Dear Friends,

This first analysis of the proposed Europe 2020 strategy has been made by the secretariat staff based on the contribution to the consultation made by Eurodiaconia in December 2009. In this analysis our focus has been on the social elements of the strategy rather than all elements of the strategy such as the environment, financial markets and economic growth.

We hope you find this analysis useful and we welcome comments from members.

With kind regards

*Heather Roy
Eurodiaconia Secretary General*





Topic	ED consultation response	Europe 2020	Comments
Poverty & social exclusion are of equal importance as growth and jobs	A re-commitment to a strong social pillar in the EU 2020 strategy where tackling poverty and social exclusion are of equal importance as growth and jobs	<p>"Inclusive growth" as one of three pillars (includes addressing poverty)</p> <p>"European platform against poverty" to ensure social and territorial cohesion such that the benefits of growth and jobs are widely shared and people experiencing poverty and social exclusion are enabled to live in dignity and take an active part in society.</p>	<p>√ and X</p> <p>Growth still the key driver but inclusion and tackling poverty as key elements of the strategy</p>
Poverty reduction target		<p>flagship initiative "European Platform against Poverty"</p> <p>The number of Europeans living below the national poverty lines should be reduced by 25%, lifting over 20 million people out of poverty</p>	<p>It is not clear what the proposed platform actually is and its detailed purpose.</p> <p>A more ambitious target on poverty reduction should be proposed.</p> <p>National targets must be sent for poverty reduction to avoid 'creaming'.</p>
OMC	The Commission must take leadership to strengthen the Open Method of Coordination for Social Protection and	<p>Page 18</p> <p><i>To transform the open method of</i></p>	<p>√ and X</p>



	<p>Social Inclusion by publishing <u>country-specific recommendations, pressuring Member States to set targets in their National Strategic Reports</u>, as specified by the 2002 Barcelona council, advocating for a stronger cooperation of Member States with civil society</p>	<p><i>coordination on social exclusion and social protection into a platform for cooperation, peer-review and exchange of good practice, and into an instrument to foster commitment by public and private players to reduce social exclusion, and take concrete action, including through targeted support from the structural funds, notably the ESF;</i></p> <p><i>“The European Commission will monitor annually the situation [of the whole strategy] showing overall progress towards the objective of smart, green and inclusive economy delivering high levels of employment, productivity and social cohesion.(...) will issue recommendations and warnings.”</i></p>	<p>Could be stronger but intention seems to be strengthening however not clear as to the future of the social OMC</p> <p>Proposal for recommendations and national targets</p> <p>No mention about civil society</p>
Groups at Risk		<p>Flagship Initiative: "European Platform against Poverty"</p> <p>To define and implement measures addressing the specific circumstances of groups at particular risk (such as one-parent families, elderly women, minorities, Roma, people with a disability and the homeless);</p>	
Migrants		<p>Flagship Initiative: "European Platform against Poverty"</p> <p>Page 18</p> <p>develop a new agenda for migrants' integration to enable them to take full advantage of their potential;</p>	<p>√ and X. Migrants are not only an economic resource so 'new agenda' must also focus on social cohesion and contribution to all facets of society and community</p>



Flexicurity	Page 3 Flexicurity, as mentioned in the consultation document, is another key strategy to ensure social inclusion in and out of employment. We believe it is essential to ensure coherence of flexicurity strategies with the Active Inclusion Recommendation in the field of access to the labour market in order to build synergies and prevent confusion over implementation of the two sets of principles. The revised European Employment Guidelines should ensure this.	Page 16 & 17 Flagship Initiative: "An Agenda for new skills and jobs" Implementing flexicurity principles and enabling people to acquire new skills to adapt to new conditions and potential career shifts will be key	√ and X No mention of social protection and flexicurity – the focus is on training.
Active inclusion (income, quality service and link to the labor market)	Active Inclusion roadmaps for people furthest from the labour market and priority targets to be established and implemented, at European and national level, covering each of the three pillars	<i>adequate income p18</i> <i>Link to the labor market</i> Flagship Initiative: "An Agenda for new skills and jobs"	X No mention of Active Inclusion
Working poor	Page 3 "Making work pay" should continue to be a priority as being in work is too often not sufficient to avoid being at risk of poverty or experiencing social exclusion; as recognised in the consultation document. Concerned if an increased focus was placed on self-employment as a solution to unemployment	Flagship Initiative: "An Agenda for new skills and jobs" -Page 17 To review and regularly monitor the efficiency of tax and benefit systems so to make work pay with a particular focus on the low skilled, whilst removing measures that discourage self-employment;	√ and X It is good to recognise the need for well paid work but it is not only the role of tax and benefit systems to ensure well paid work but also of salaries. Self employment is not the only route out of poverty and self employment must be accompanied by appropriate measures.
Quality jobs	Page 3	Page 10 : smart growth through quality jobs	√



	We welcome the commitment to create quality jobs and the reference made to “better jobs” Health services/high quality jobs (p5)		
Minimum income	Page 4 A common definition on “adequate minimum income”, followed by the adoption of a Directive on guaranteeing adequate minimum income for all with country-specific levels	Page 18 – flagship initiative “European Platform against Poverty” <i>At national level, Member States will need: To fully deploy their social security and pension systems to ensure adequate income support and access to health care.</i>	√ and X Not the responsibility of the Commission to take action – only MS. “Adequate income support” is used as in the Active inclusion Recommendation rather than minimum income nor should it only be the responsibility of social security and pension systems but also the role of salaries to ensure adequate income.
Education	Education <i>Access to education from a young age can help break the cycle of intergenerational poverty and therefore increase life opportunities in general, as well as social mobility. (p4)</i>	Page 10/11/11 - Early school leavers - To improve educational outcomes - quality of education	√ and X No link made between education and tackling poverty
Services		Page 19 – services directive + quality of services “ provided to consumers” + public procurement are mentioned	X Despite reference to quality, no references to social services or SGI (all services seen as the same and SGI users not consumers) or social considerations in public procurement
Financial services (bank account)	Page 4 Adoption of a directive on financial inclusion to establish universal access to a bank account and to fair and		X



	sustainable credit and loan facilities for all		
Health inequalities	Investment in social and health services	<p><i>Page 16- A major effort will be needed to combat poverty and social exclusion and reduce health inequalities to ensure that everybody can benefit from growth.</i></p> <p>adequacy and sustainability of social protection and pension systems</p> <p><i>P18 - ensure better access to health care systems</i></p>	X (and √?) Adequacy mentioned and access to healthcare but no reference to investment in these sectors – to how to improve access – and no mention of social services
Funding long-term financial effectiveness	<p>Page 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -EU structural and cohesion funds should be refocused on tackling poverty and social exclusion by investing in local social infrastructures -Funds should be earmarked for investment in social and health services, particularly for the most disadvantaged -The use of EU funds need to be more effectively monitored by the European Commission <p>The EU and Member States together should support the long-term financial sustainability of successful projects – beyond short EU funding periods</p>	<p>Not directly link to our point but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - page 18 – page 24 <p>smart <u>budgetary consolidation</u> for long-term growth</p> <p>Financial sustainability</p>	
Civil society		Page 28	X Only EESC mentioned and not other civil society actors.