ECONOMIC POLICIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IN 2012, ACCORDING TO LEGAL ACTS IN FORCE

POLITICILE ECONOMICE ALE STATELOR UNIUNII EUROPENE ÎN ANUL 2012, POTRIVIT ACTELOR JURIDICE ÎN VIGOARE

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Abstract: *Treaty provides that Member States shall regard their economic policies as a matter of common concern and shall coordinate them within the Council. In accordance with the Treaty, the EU has developed and implemented for fiscal policy coordination instruments (Stability and Growth Pact) and macrostructural policies. Treaty provides that the Council adopted guidelines on employment and broad economic policy guidelines to guide the policies of the Member States. of the Lisbon Strategy, launched in 2000, was based on EU recognition of the need to increase employment, productivity and competitiveness, while enhancing social cohesion in the face of global competition, technological change and an aging of aging. Lisbon Strategy was relaunched in 2005 after an interim review resulted in placing more emphasis on growth and more jobs and better.*

Key words: *strategy, reform, guidelines, review, growth, secure, program*

INTRODUCTION

Lisbon Strategy for growth and employment contributed to a consensus on the general direction of economic policy and employment policy of the Union. Under this strategy, the Council adopted the 2005 Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and Employment Guidelines, which was revised in 2008. The 24 guidelines are the basis for national reform programs, describing the main priorities for macroeconomic reform, microeconomic and labor market for the Union as a whole. However, experience shows that the guidelines did not set sufficiently clear priorities

and links between them could have been stronger. This has limited their impact on national policy.

Financial and economic crisis that started in 2008 resulted in a significant loss of jobs and a large proportion of potential output and led to a dramatic deterioration in public finances. However, the European Economic Recovery Plan has helped Member States to address the crisis, partly through a coordinated fiscal stimulus, the euro providing an anchor for macroeconomic stability. The crisis has therefore shown that, if strengthened and more effective coordination of economic policies at EU level can produce significant results. The crisis has also highlighted the interdependence of economies and labor markets of the Member States.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Five main objectives listed in the relevant guidelines, are common objectives which guide the action of Member States, taking into account their original positions and national circumstances and the Union. Member States should strive to meet national objectives and to remove bottlenecks that constrain growth. The comprehensive exit strategies from the economic crisis, Member States should carry out ambitious reform programs to ensure macroeconomic stability and sustainable public finances, improve competitiveness, and reduce macroeconomic imbalances and to improve market developments labor. Temporary measures introduced in response to the crisis should be removed in a coordinated, as appropriate, when recovery is secure. Withdrawal of tax incentives should be implemented and coordinated within the Stability and Growth Pact.

In Europe 2020, Member States and EU should implement reforms directed to "smart sustainable growth", an increase in knowledge and innovation. Reforms should aim to improve the quality of education, ensuring access for all, strengthen research and performance of business and further improving the regulatory framework to promote innovation and knowledge transfer throughout the Union. They should encourage entrepreneurship and help turn creative ideas into products, services and processes that can generate economic growth, quality jobs, and territorial cohesion, economic and social challenges that can better address European social and global. In this context, it is essential to maximize information and communication technologies.

Policies of the Union and Member States, including through their reform programs should pursue "sustainable growth". Sustainable growth is decoupling economic growth from resource use; create a sustainable, competitive and efficient in terms of energy use and resources, equitable distribution of costs and benefits and exploiting Europe's leadership in the race to develop new processes and technologies, including green technologies. Member States and EU should implement the reforms needed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and use resources efficiently, which will also help to prevent environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. It should also improve their business, to stimulate creation of green jobs and help businesses modernize their industrial base.

EU policies and Member States' reform programs should also target an "inclusive growth". Inclusive growth means building a cohesive society in which people are able to anticipate and manage change, thus participating in society and economy. Thus, the reforms Member States should ensure access and opportunities for everyone throughout life, thus reducing poverty and social exclusion by removing barriers to labor market participation, especially for women workers in more age, youth, persons with disabilities and legal migrants.

Member States should take into account the gender perspective in all policies. They should also ensure that all citizens and all regions enjoy the benefits of economic growth. Member States' reform programs should therefore focus on ensuring the efficient functioning of labor markets, by investing in successful transition, the development of appropriate skills, quality jobs and combat segmentation, structural unemployment and inactivity, while ensuring adequate and sustainable social protection and active inclusion to reduce poverty, while adhering to agreed fiscal consolidation.

As an essential, Member States and the Union should continue and intensify its efforts to further improve its regulatory framework, especially for businesses. The strengthening of regulatory intelligent and EU Member States should ensure that legislation is well designed, proportionate, regularly reviewed and does not cause unnecessary burdens. Structural reforms of the Union and Member States can effectively contribute to growth and jobs if they enhance the competitiveness of the global economy, create new opportunities for European exporters and provide competitive access to vital imports. Europe 2020 should be based on an integrated suite

of national and European policies, which Member States and EU should fully apply a similar pace to get leverage effect of coordinated structural reforms and a more substantial contribution to European policy objectives of the strategy, taking into account the initial national positions.

Although these guidelines are addressed to Member States and EU, Europe 2020 would be implemented in partnership with all national, regional and local, through close association with parliaments and social partners and civil society representatives, which will assist in developing national reform programs, the implementation thereof and to the overall communication strategy. Europe 2020 is based on a smaller set of guidelines, replacing the previous set of 24 and addressing labor employment and overall economic policy in a coherent way.

These new guidelines are consistent integrated European Council conclusions. They provide precise guidance to Member States on defining their national reform programs and implementation of reforms, reflecting interdependence and the Stability and Growth Pact. The guidelines will form the basis of any country-specific recommendations which the Council can address Member States or, for general guidelines on economic, political warnings that the Commission may issue in cases where country-specific recommendations are not followed enough.

Member States whose currency is the euro should consider differences between large and persistent current account positions and other macroeconomic imbalances as a matter of common interest and to take urgent measures to reduce imbalances where necessary. Also, the euro area Member States should aim to reduce unit labor costs, taking into account productivity developments at regional and businesses and enhance competition in product markets. Euro area Member States large current account surpluses should take steps to implement structural reforms leading to further growth potential, thus supporting domestic demand. Similarly, euro area Member States should act on any other macroeconomic imbalances such as excessive accumulation of private debt and inflation divergences. Should be overcome institutional barriers that prevent flexible adjustments of prices and wages to market conditions.

Macroeconomic imbalances should be monitored closely in the Eurogroup, which should propose remedial measures where necessary. Member States and the Union should establish measures to promote decoupling economic growth from resource use, environmental difficulties

transforming growth opportunities and using more efficient in their own natural resources, which also contributes to preventing environmental degradation and to ensure biodiversity. They should implement structural reforms needed to record positive results in the context of increasing limitations on global carbon dioxide emissions and use of resources and to create new businesses and employment opportunities labor. Union and Member States should make further efforts to accelerate the creation of an integrated internal energy market and fully functional to allow the flow of gas and electricity without jamming.

To reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency, Member States should use the widespread market-based instruments, upholding the principle of internalising external costs, including taxes and other effective tools to stabilize, reduce emissions and adapt to well to climate change, to support economic growth and sustainable jobs and resource efficiency in a cost effective way to stimulate use of renewable energy technologies and low carbon dioxide emissions of climate-resilient, to pass the means greener and interconnected transport and promote energy saving and eco-innovation. Member States should phase out environmentally harmful subsidies and ensure fair distribution of costs and their benefits.

Union Member States and should use fiscal instruments, regulatory and otherwise, for example energy performance standards for products and buildings in the Union, labeling and green procurement to stimulate the transition cost of production and consumption patterns, for to promote recycling to achieve the transition to an efficient economy in terms of resource and energy and a safe and sustainable low carbon dioxide emissions and to ensure progress towards sustainable transport and production clean energy, while increasing the maximum European synergies in this regard and taking into account the contribution of sustainable agriculture. Member States should take decisive steps in the direction of energy transport infrastructure and intelligent, timely and fully interconnected using information and communication technologies in accordance with guideline 4, increase productivity and ensure coordinated implementation of infrastructure projects and support the development of open network market, competitive and integrated.

The main objective of the European Union, on which Member States will set national targets, is to reduce by 2020 greenhouse gas emissions by 20% compared to 1990 levels, to increase renewable energy share in

consumption final energy of 20%, and seeking an increase of 20% energy efficiency. Union is committed to a decision to move to a 30% by 2020 compared to 1990, which is its conditional offer to establish a global and comprehensive post-2012, provided that other developed countries commit to comparable emission reductions and that developing countries contribute adequately according to their own responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Improving business and consumer and industrial base modernization and development to ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market Member States should ensure that markets work for citizens, consumers and businesses. While ensuring consumer protection, Member States and EU should foreseeable framework conditions to ensure that goods and services markets are functioning, open and competitive. In particular, these actions should be aimed at deepening the single market and regulatory system, particularly in the financial sector and promote fair global financial markets, implementation and effective enforcement of single market rules and competition and the necessary physical infrastructure development, also aimed at reducing regional differences.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Member States should vigorously enforce budgetary consolidation strategies in accordance with the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) and in particular, the recommendations addressed to them under the excessive deficit procedure and / or memoranda of understanding for support balance of payments. In particular, Member States should pursue consolidation in accordance with Council recommendations and long term objectives in accordance with PSC. Without prejudice to the legal framework of the SGP, this implies that most Member States should carry out a consolidation far exceed indicator of 0.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) annually in structural terms, to when the debt ratio will see a clear trend of decline. Fiscal consolidation should start no later than 2011 and earlier in some Member States in economic conditions require, provided that the Commission forecasts continue to indicate that the recovery is strengthening and becoming autonomous.

The development and implementation of budgetary consolidation strategies, Member States should focus on limiting spending and prioritize the types of spending to stimulate growth in areas such as education, skills

and employability, research, development and innovation and investment in networks with positive effects on productivity, for example high-speed internet, energy and transport interconnections and infrastructure.

Moreover, Member States should strengthen national budgetary frameworks, increasing the quality of public expenditure and improve sustainability of public finances, particularly with a clear reduction of debt, public expenditure reform age, such as health care costs, and and policies that contribute to effective growth rate of employment and retirement, to ensure financial viability of public expenditure by age and social protection systems. Budgetary efficiency and quality of public finances are also important in the Union.

Member States should avoid unsustainable macroeconomic imbalances, including those resulting from current account developments, the stock exchanges and the balance sheets of households and businesses. Member States with large current account imbalances are rooted in a persistent lack of competitiveness or have other origins should address root causes by taking measures such as fiscal policy, wage developments, structural reforms related financial services markets and products (including capital flows increased productivity) and labor markets, in accordance with the guidelines on employment, and any relevant field.

In this context, Member States should encourage the creation of adequate framework conditions for wage-bargaining systems and labor cost developments consistent with price stability, trends in long-term productivity and the need to reduce macroeconomic imbalances. As appropriate, adequate public sector salaries should be seen as an important signal to ensure wage moderation in the private sector, consistent with the need to improve competitiveness. Frameworks for determining wages, including minimum wage, should allow wage formation processes take account of differences in qualifications and conditions of the local labor markets and to meet the extensive divergence of economic performance between different regions of the country.

CONCLUSIONS

The external dimension of the internal market should be further developed to improve trade and investment. In the single market, due respect should be given adequate provision of services of general interest. Member States should continue to improve the business environment by

modernizing government, improving corporate governance, elimination of internal market barriers, eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens and unnecessary tasks to avoid new regulatory instruments applying smart, improving their access to the domestic market, support the internationalization of SMEs and promoting entrepreneurship, including the women.

Public procurement should encourage innovation, especially for SMEs, and support the transition to an efficient economy in terms of resources and energy use, respecting the principles of market openness, transparency and genuine competition. Member States should support a modern industrial base, innovative, diverse, competitive, with low carbon dioxide emissions and efficient energy and resources, partly by facilitating any necessary restructuring and cost-effectively full compliance with EU competition rules and other relevant rules.

In this context, Member States should amend EU funding priority. Member States should work closely with industry and stakeholders to contribute to leadership and the Union's competitiveness in the global sustainable development and inclusive development, in particular by encouraging corporate social responsibility by identifying bottlenecks and fostering change.

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