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REPORT

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (COM(2003) 109 – C5-0105/2003 – 2003/0047(COD))

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Rapporteur: Theodorus J.J. Bouwman

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
majority of the votes cast
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- *** Assent procedure
*majority of Parliament's component Members except in cases
covered by Articles 105, 107, 161 and 300 of the EC Treaty and
Article 7 of the EU Treaty*
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
majority of the votes cast
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
*majority of the votes cast, to approve the common position
majority of Parliament's component Members, to reject or amend
the common position*
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
majority of the votes cast, to approve the joint text

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the Commission)

Amendments to a legislative text

In amendments by Parliament, amended text is highlighted in ***bold italics***. Highlighting in *normal italics* is an indication for the relevant departments showing parts of the legislative text for which a correction is proposed, to assist preparation of the final text (for instance, obvious errors or omissions in a given language version). These suggested corrections are subject to the agreement of the departments concerned.

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PROCEDURAL PAGE

By letter of 12 March 2003 the Commission submitted to Parliament, pursuant to Article 251(2) and Article 285 of the EC Treaty, the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (COM(2003) 109 – 2003/0047 (COD)).

At the sitting of 27 March 2003 the President of Parliament announced that he had referred this proposal to the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs as the committee responsible and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs for its opinion (C5-0105/2003).

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs appointed Theodorus J.J. Bouwman rapporteur at its meeting of 26 March 2003.

It considered the Commission proposal and draft report at its meetings of 29 April and 8/9 July 2003.

At the latter meeting it adopted the draft legislative resolution unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Marie-Hélène Gillig, acting chairman; Winfried Menrad and Marie-Thérèse Hermange, vice-chairpersons; Jan Andersson, Elspeth Attwooll, Regina Bastos, Hans Udo Bullmann, Alejandro Cercas, Harald Ettl, Jillian Evans, Carlo Fatuzzo, Ilda Figueiredo, Fiorella Ghilardotti (for Luigi Cocilovo), Anne-Karin Glase, Richard Howitt (for Enrico Ferri), Stephen Hughes, Anne Elisabet Jensen (for Marco Formentini), Anna Karamanou, Ioannis Koukiadis (for Roger Helmer), Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, Jean Lambert, Elizabeth Lynne, Thomas Mann, Mario Mantovani, Claude Moraes, Manuel Pérez Álvarez, Bartho Pronk, Lennart Sacrédeus, Herman Schmid, Miet Smet, Ieke van den Burg, Barbara Weiler and Sabine Zissener (for Philip Bushill-Matthews).

The opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs is attached.

The report was tabled on 9 July 2003.

DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics (COM(2003) 109 – C5-0105/2003 – 2003/0047(COD))

(Codecision procedure: first reading)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission proposal to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2003) 109¹),
 - having regard to Article 251(2) and Article 285 of the EC Treaty, pursuant to which the Commission submitted the proposal to Parliament (C5-0105/2003),
 - having regard to Rule 67 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (A5-0260/2003),
1. Approves the Commission proposal as amended;
 2. Asks for the matter to be referred to it again, should the Commission intend to amend its proposal substantially or replace it with another text;
 3. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council and Commission.

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendments by Parliament

Amendment 1
ARTICLE 1, POINT 3 A (new)

Article 4, paragraph 4 a new (Regulation (EC) No 577/98

The following paragraph 4 a is added to Article 4:

4a. Spain, Finland and the United Kingdom may, during a transition period until the end of 2007, collect the structural variables with reference to a single quarter .

¹ Not yet published in OJ.

Justification

The amendment takes into account a conclusion of the Greek Presidency of Council Working Group meeting of 14 April 2003 on the modification of Regulation (EC No 577/98) as summarised by Eurostat.

17 June 2003

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS

for the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council regulation on amending Council Regulation (EC) No 577/98 on the organisation of a labour force sample survey in the Community to adapt the list of survey characteristics
(COM (2003) 109 – C5-0105/2003 – 2003/0047(COD))

Draftsman: Astrid Lulling

PROCEDURE

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Astrid Lulling draftsman at its meeting of 9 April 2003.

It considered the draft opinion at its meetings of 20 May 2003 and 11 June 2003.

At the latter meeting it adopted the following amendments unanimously.

The following were present for the vote: Christa Randzio-Plath (chairman), José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (vice-chairman), Philippe A.R. Herzog (vice-chairman), Astrid Lulling (draftsman), Generoso Andria, Roberto Felice Bigliardo, Hans Blokland, Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Benedetto Della Vedova, Bert Doorn (for Mónica Ridruejo), Manuel António dos Santos (for Fernando Pérez Royo), Harald Ettl (for Hans Udo Bullmann), Ingo Friedrich, Carles-Alfred Gasòliba i Böhm, Robert Goebbels, Lisbeth Grönfeldt Bergman, Mary Honeyball, Christopher Huhne, Elisabeth Jeggle (for Hans-Peter Mayer pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Othmar Karas, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Christoph Werner Konrad, Werner Langen (for Jonathan Evans), Thomas Mann (for John Purvis), Miquel Mayol i Raynal, Bill Miller (for Peter William Skinner pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Alexander Radwan, Bernhard Rapkay, Karin Riis-Jørgensen, Martine Roure (for Bruno Trentin pursuant to Rule 153(2)), Olle Schmidt, Ieke van den Burg (for Pervenche Berès) and Theresa Villiers.

SHORT JUSTIFICATION

1. Background

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 577/98, the labour force sample survey has been carried out on a quarterly basis in the Community since 1998. From 2003 onwards, the survey will be conducted on a continuous basis (Regulation (EC) No 1991/2002).

The labour force survey has two aims. It will provide comparable statistics on employment and unemployment levels and trends, and describe the structure of labour-market participation by individuals and households.

Over recent years, the labour market has changed substantially, and many policy measures have come into effect under the European Employment Strategy, with the aim of achieving the employment objectives of the Lisbon strategy. The regulation has to be adjusted accordingly.

2. The Commission proposal

The purpose of the present Commission proposal is to adjust and expand the list of variables set out in the 1998 base regulation by adding six new variables: 'continued receipt of wages and salary'; 'supervisory responsibilities'; 'involvement of the public employment services in finding the current job'; 'overtime hours'; 'contract with a temporary employment agency'; and 'lack of care facilities as a reason for non-participation or part-time work'. It also adds a new item (as Article 4(1)(n)), designated 'atypical working times'.

The proposal also creates the option, on a Commission proposal, of differentiating, from among the survey categories, certain structural variables that, by their very nature, need to be surveyed only once a year.

Lastly, the 1998 regulation creates the option for a group of additional variables ('ad hoc module') to be allowed to supplement the information obtained from the data surveys previously provided for. The Commission proposal limits that ad hoc module to eleven variables.

3. Draftsman's assessment

In the context of both the current economic trend of falling growth compared with previous years and rising unemployment throughout the European Union, and mindful of the Lisbon strategy objectives - not least in relation to employment and flexibility of work - your draftsman can only welcome this proposal, which will enable Member States and other institutional players the better to assess the situation and trends on the labour market. These data are thus crucial to enabling political decision-makers to adopt the measures that will be required to ensure job-creation.

Your draftsman approves the proposal for a regulation without amendment, as submitted by the Commission.

CONCLUSIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, as the committee responsible, to approve the Commission proposal.