

SUMMARY

on the Opinion referring to the Proposal for a Regulation on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 1305/2013

COM (2015)701

The Chamber of Deputies takes note that the Regulation Proposal is part of the European Semester, launched in November 2015 and that has been elaborated in the context of EU's presentation of the Annual Growth Survey for 2016.

The Chamber of Deputies considers that Romania should participate in this Programme, taking into consideration that its implementation has numerous financing, organization and financing problems. At the same time the support which is aimed at also includes assistance for the efficient and effective use of Union funds, what could favour both the increase of the absorption rate and an increase of the efficiency of the absorbed funds.

The Chamber of Deputies considers that:

- The indicated reforms in the specific country Recommendations within the European Semester are first aimed at, all the more as arrears are continuously accounted for. It considers that it is just the complexity and depth of the responsibilities resulted from the recommendations that could be an eligibility criterion for finance granting, which is otherwise very correct as the states which would have most of the problems would have priority;
- The proposed Programme intends to add value and complement the already confirmed results of the existing support measures, by focussing upon the aspects of assistance granted to the national authorities of the Member States which request it, especially those linked to the offering of advice and expertise on the ground, throughout the reform process or according to defined phases or to different phases of the reform process;
- Considers that one of the evaluation keys of the contribution Programme contribution to achieving the mentioned objectives is the percentage which will complete the existing resources as to consolidating the administrative capacity by the available technical assistance within other EU financing programmes. It also considers that the intermediary evaluation report which the European Commission will present to the European Parliament and to the EU Council until latest the middle of 2019 would have to present this data.

At the same time, the Chamber of Deputies:

- **Takes note** that the initiative of the European Commission relies on the assumption that the support is delivered more efficiently by redirecting the existing

funds towards the new Programme, rather than turning the currently existing funds to good account. It also draws the attention that such an approach is contrary to the principle according to which new mechanisms should not be created before improving the functioning of the existing ones;

- **Notes** that the decision mechanism of the allotment by the European Commission is not well defined as clarifying details are necessary regarding the criteria linked to the emergency, the enlargement and the depth of the problems which the respective Member States identify. It also considers that the confusion linked to these criteria could make some Member States give up their demands considering that such an undertaking would be inefficient.
- **Notes** that the Programme is conceived to assist those Member States which need assistance in the field of administrative capacity and economic governance. This fact and also the fact that a basic argument of the initiative is the success of the support group for Greece and Cyprus can make some Member States, which consider themselves not to be in such a difficult situation, to be reticent towards formulating the participation demand. It also considers that the mentioned reaction is so predictable that doubts arise as to the EU concept to offer this Program to all Member States.