

Extraordinary plenary session on the conclusions of the June Council

Statement by Prof. Danuta Hübner MEP

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Fiscal and financial reforms and policies are not a substitute for structural change and competitive growth policies. That is why I would like to address first the role of cohesion policy in the delivery mechanism of the EU 2020 Strategy. In its conclusions, the Council sent us a clear message to involve cohesion policy in the implementation of EU 2020. After all, cohesion policy was the only truly successful strand in the delivery of the Lisbon Strategy as confirmed by the March communication of the European Commission. Why?

Because:

- it sets binding guidelines that are conditions for the European resources to be transferred to a member state, a region or a city,
- it leaves space for member states and regions to translate common European objectives into their own reality,
- it has an efficient machinery to monitor and support in achieving goals,
- it also has an effective sanction mechanism.

On economic governance, I would like to support strongly the idea of going beyond the fiscal surveillance towards the surveillance of competitiveness related factors generating or contributing to imbalances. I also believe we should say urgently, clearly and loudly why fiscal surveillance did not work and the Stability and Growth Pact did not deliver. If we continue to rely exclusively on decentralised fiscal discipline, maybe it will give us better European governance, but it will not give us good European governance.