

## **European Commission presented at the EP's economic and social priorities for 2016**

The European Commission presented on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at the EP in Brussels, by the hand of his vice president, Valdis Dombrovskis, head of the Euro and Social Dialogue in the Annual Growth Survey for 2016.

The "package" presented launches the annual cycle of economic governance and establishes the economic and social priorities of the EU for the coming year. The policy challenges vary from country to country, and the solutions are adapted in each case, however, there are broad issues affecting the EU as a whole. To strengthen the recovery and foster convergence, the Commission recommends continuing the three main pillars identified last year for economic and social policy of the EU: boost investment, further structural reforms and responsible fiscal policies.

Mrs Maria João Rodrigues, as Parliament's rapporteur on the issue, intervened in the debate to point out that "the pace of economic recovery seen so far does not allow the EU to respond to the various crises that arise, notably unemployment." The socialist said that "it seems obvious that the solution lies in more and better investment in key sectors to promote domestic demand, such as the energy transition, education, security and social integration also to address the refugee crisis and of security". The MEP argued further that "tackling inequality is also key to promoting economic recovery and domestic demand" and that "this can only be achieved through the implementation of progressive structural reforms and the future."

The Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis said that "the Commission has taken into consideration these aspects" and gave reason to Maria João Rodrigues in the "need to introduce additional means to accelerate the economic recovery, including through more investment and the fight against inequalities."