

Maria João Rodrigues chairs the High Level Group to make economic and monetary union fairer (18 November 2015)

The European Union is currently debating plans to deepen the economic and monetary union (EMU). The reform of the European Semester, the improvement of economic governance instruments, the realization of the Banking Union and the external representation of the euro area are among the topics under consideration. In this context, the European Socialist Party (PSE) decided to create a High Level Group on the further development of EMU, a structure resulting from a propose made by António Costa in the last PES Congress in Budapest. The PSE has appointed Maria João Rodrigues to chair and coordinate this initiative with the goal of creating a socialist network in national governments and parliaments, together with the Socialist MEPs from across the EU, to work collaboratively to fix the euro zone so as to allow for balanced and sustainable growth.

Recently, the Vice-President of the S & D Group, in a debate on the issue with the Commission Vice-President with the portfolio of Euro and Social Dialogue, Valdis Dombrovskis emphasized that "domestic demand is crucial for a strong and sustainable economic recovery" . The Socialist MEP called for "a change of orientation of EU economic policies:. Investment should be the first priority, accompanied by reforms aimed at growth potential in Europe and to reduce social inequalities Maria João Rodrigues also argued that" responsible fiscal policy should include sufficient investment in growth, a bet against tax evasion and greater support to the needy, to restore economic and social prospects for all. "

As well as rapporteur of the European Parliament for "economic priorities for 2016," Maria João Rodrigues guarantees that Parliament will be more active in the debate with the European Commission, the Eurogroup and the Council in the coming weeks. The MP stressed that "the euro area should be considered as a single economy, where economic policies need to be coordinated to ensure that demand reestablish confidence" defending "the application of different policies adapted to each Member States".

Short

Maria João Rodrigues, a member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, has been appointed rapporteur for the "European Semester", the annual cycle of coordination and alignment of EU economic policies. The European Commission presented a few days ago a package of new measures to strengthen the euro area, the report following the "five presidents" published last June. By the end of 2015, the Commission will also present its "Annual Growth Survey", defining the priorities of economic and fiscal policy for 2016.