

Plenary debate on the Multiannual Financial Framework

European Parliament, Strasbourg

5 July 2011, 15:00

Intervention by Prof. Danuta Hübner MEP

Let me start by recalling a well-established fact, namely that Europe will have to deliver in the years to come on growth, on jobs and on competitiveness. This is what citizens expect from us.

For the 2014-2020 multiannual financial framework this means focus on investment. Looking at the Commission's proposal from this perspective, I see that it generates new space for future-oriented policies investing in growth based on advances in knowledge, innovation, resource-efficiency and skills.

At the same time it proposes to modernise existing policy instruments and harness them more effectively to achieve the objectives of EU2020.

It offers tools and ways to achieve growth, jobs and competitiveness while striking a politically sensitive balance between new policy tools and modernisation of existing, tested instruments.

And there is a second reason why I consider this proposal a good basis for negotiations. While being forward-looking, it is built on objective rules and principles, it offers transparency, equity and efficiency, and also public visibility of joint European action.

So in my view, it is a good and rational basis for future-oriented common reflection on Europe's future action.

Our common challenge is to see that this proposal becomes an effective engine for change Europe needs, a truly multiannual investment framework.