

Common Position of the Portuguese members of the European Economic and Social Committee regarding the eventual suspension of the European Structural Funds

Regarding the possibility of Portugal being sanctioned by the European Institutions for not fulfilling the set budgetary deficit objectives in 2015, the 12 Portuguese members of the European Economic and Social Committee, representing the civil society, namely Employers, Workers and the Various Interests Group hereby publicly make the following statement:

1º Portugal and the Portuguese people did a huge effort facing the adjustment that the Portuguese Republic needed in order to fulfil with its international obligations.

2º The effort made, brought positive results, but was also accompanied with a huge social and economic cost from which the country is still recovering.

3º Portugal is a punctilious country with a European vocation, being therefore focused in contributing for the reinforcement of the European spirit and ideal in which the majority of the Portuguese people identify themselves.

4º Sanctioning Portugal, after the country having made an extraordinary effort and considering that international conjuncture being a destabilization factor for economical growth of all European Member States, it is in our institutional point of view a mistake and a injustice that must be avoided.

5º Penalizing Portugal with an eventual suspensions of the structural funds to support the economy, innovation and the internationalization of companies and their productive factors, would be a punishment that the Portuguese people do not deserve and would have severe consequences for the economical and social recovery of the country.

6º Therefore, the 12 members of the Economic and Social Committee, based on their independent but institutional status, hereby call the European Council, the European Commission and European Parliament for the need of avoiding a measure that would not contribute in anything for the increase of the European feeling of the Portuguese people and that would penalize a lot the life of the citizens.

Lisbon, the 3rd October 2016