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***Exchange of views on the European Semester  
(Consideration of amendments)***

*The Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee, European Parliament*

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I would like to focus my comments on the amendments that I have tabled together with other colleagues on the European Semester.

Over the last months, the issue of a more profound and efficient use of European Investment and Structural Funds to support structural reforms, investment needed to take us out of the crisis, and, more specifically, the implementation of CSR, have been high on our anti-crisis agenda.

When negotiating the regulatory framework for cohesion policy 2014-2020 we have introduced measures linking the ESIF with sound economic governance, and, specifically, with the European Semester.

This link has been established for the entire process of cohesion policy, starting with the ex-ante evaluation and establishment of Partnership Agreements and Operational Programs. There is also the possibility of amending operational programs to facilitate the implementation of CSR.

As we are in 2014, the very beginning of the new financial perspectives, when operational programs are prepared and approved, it is the time to make sure that this link is established to support public investment and attract private investment.