



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADD 1**

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SOC 813
SAN 390
CONSOM 176**

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3263rd** meeting of the Council of the European Union
**(EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS)** held in Luxembourg on 15 October 2013

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AGENDA (doc. 14508/13)

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¹ Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

LEGISLATIVE DELIBERATIONS

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

2. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the enforcement of Directive 96/71/EC concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services [First reading]

Interinstitutional file: 2012/0061 (COD)

– General approach

8040/12 SOC 224 MI 193 COMPET 168

+ COR 1

14335/13 SOC 765 MI 825 COMPET 699 CODEC 2181

14476/13 SOC 786 MI 841 COMPET 707 CODEC 2213

+ COR 1

In spite of intensive negotiations on the basis of Presidency's revised compromise proposals, and of alternative joint compromise proposals presented by a group of delegations, the Council was not able to reach a general approach on the Directive. The Presidency undertook to reflect on the future handling of this dossier.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - PUBLIC DEBATES

(in accordance with Article 8 (2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure [proposed by the Presidency])

3. Youth Employment

– Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on youth employment. Delegations informed on the progress in implementing the Youth Guarantee Recommendation through their national implementation plans. Delegations also shared their national approaches, stressing in particular the need for quality education, support to young entrepreneurship, and prevention of the young becoming NEETs through coaching, counselling and guiding. Emphasis was also put on apprenticeships and traineeships. It was stressed that no improvement in youth employment figures could be made without effective structural reforms aiming at economic recovery and growth.

(a) European Alliance for Apprenticeships

- Adoption of Council declaration
14086/13 SOC 734 ECOFIN 832 EDUC 360 JEUN 84

The Council adopted the declaration as set out in doc. 14086/13 and the United Kingdom delegation entered a statement to these minutes (as set out hereafter). The final version of the declaration is to be found in doc. 14986/13.

Statement by the United Kingdom

"The UK acknowledges and respects other Member States' support for this non-binding Declaration. And we strongly support efforts to tackle youth unemployment and to improve access to, and the quality of, apprenticeships. But the UK wishes to highlight that this is a Member State competence and therefore has some concerns about the prescriptive nature of this Declaration, in particular regarding to remuneration, social protection and integration within wider education systems. We would like to see the Alliance for Apprenticeships provide a simple mechanism for Apprenticeship policymakers and practitioners to exchange ideas and best practice."

(b) Current initiatives

- State of play
13904/13 EMPL 2 SOC 708 EDUC 344 ECOFIN 809 JEUN 80

The Council held an exchange of views based on this Presidency note.

4. Evaluation of the 2013 European Semester in employment and social policies

- Exchange of views
13906/13 EMPL 3 SOC 709 EDUC 345 ECOFIN 810

The Council held an exchange of views, based on a Presidency note (doc. 13906/13), on the evaluation of the third European Semester in employment and social policies. The results of this debate, together with those of debates in other Council formations, are to be found in the Presidency Synthesis Report on the evaluation of the third European Semester.

(a) Contributions of the Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee

- Endorsement
13907/13 EMPL 4 SOC 710 EDUC 346 ECOFIN 811
+ COR 1
13957/13 EMPL 5 SOC 721 EDUC 352 ECOFIN 817
+ COR 1

The Council endorsed the contributions of the Employment and Social Protection Committees, as set out in docs 13907/1 + COR 1 and 13957/13 + COR 1.

(b) SPC report on social policy reforms for growth and cohesion: contribution to the AGS 2014 policy priorities

- Endorsement of the key conclusions
13958/2/13 EMPL 6 SOC 722 EDUC 353 ECOFIN 818 REV 2

The Council endorsed the key conclusions of the Social Protection Committee's report, as set out in doc. 13958/2/13 REV 2.

5. The social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

- Policy debate
14103/13 EMPL 11 SOC 740 EDUC 365 ECOFIN 837
+ COR 1

The Council held a policy debate, based on a Presidency note (doc. 14103/13 + COR1), on the social dimension of EMU. The main elements of this debate are contained in the Lithuanian Presidency letter to the President of the European Council.

The Council positively welcomed the Commission Communication on the social dimension of EMU and expressed support for the strengthening of the social dimension of EMU.

Delegations gave broad support to the creation of a social and employment scoreboard as part of the European Semester; work at the technical level is to continue. Although delegations expressed the necessity to consider the social implications of economic policies, there was no consensus on whether a limited number of auxiliary employment and social indicators should be added to the Alert Mechanism Report (of the MIP). On the issue of social dialogue, there was broad agreement of its importance at national and European level, and of its crucial role in the implementation of policy reforms. Delegations concurred that the current platforms can be used better and more intensively, as there is still scope for improving the synergy between the different *fora*.

(a) Communication from the Commission on "Strengthening the social dimension of the EMU"

- Presentation by the Commission
14102/13 EMPL 10 SOC 739 EDUC 364 ECOFIN 836

The Commission presented its Communication on "Strengthening the social dimension of the EMU".

(b) Contributions of the Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee

- Presentation by the Committee Chairs
14100/13 EMPL 8 SOC 737 EDUC 362 ECOFIN 834
14097/13 EMPL 7 SOC 735 EDUC 361 ECOFIN 833
+ COR 1
14101/13 EMPL 9 SOC 738 EDUC 363 ECOFIN 835

The Chairmen of the Employment and Social Protection Committees presented their contributions to the Council.

6. European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 7/2013: "Has the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund delivered EU added value in re-integrating redundant workers?"

- Adoption of Council conclusions
14037/13 FIN 563 SOC 728 ECOFIN 826 FSTR 112 COMPET 678 AGRI 606

The Council adopted the conclusions as set out in doc. 14037/13. The final version of the conclusions is to be found in doc. 14987/13.

