



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 20 March 2014
(OR. en)**

**6962/14
ADD 1**

**PV/CONS 9
EDUC 75
JEUN 37
CULT 25
SPORT 10**

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3296th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**EDUCATION**,
YOUTH, CULTURE AND SPORT), held in Brussels on 24 February 2014

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

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PUBLIC DEBATES

"B" ITEMS (doc. 6643/14 OJ CONS 8 EDUC 65 JEUN 34 CULT 23 SPORT 8)

4. Developing skills and enhancing employability in the light of PIAAC and PISA results 3

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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).

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

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

"B" ITEMS

4. Developing skills and enhancing employability in the light of PIAAC and PISA results

- Policy debate
6085/14 EDUC 37 SOC 77

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the question paper prepared by the Presidency (see doc. 6085/14), in the presence of two external guest speakers:

- Professor Frank VANDENBROUCKE, who lectures at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven and
- Mr Frank-Jürgen WEISE, who is Head of the German Federal Employment Service.

Ministers responded to the key messages in this year's Annual Growth Survey by acknowledging the need for education and training systems across the EU to do more to ensure that young people and low-skilled adults acquire the essential skills and competences required in today's labour market.

To achieve this, many Ministers called for better mutual understanding and closer cooperation between the worlds of education and employment, as well as efforts to promote more work-based learning and to raise the status, quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training. Several Ministers emphasised the importance of ensuring high quality teaching at all levels, equitable access to early childhood education and strengthened opportunities for adult learning. A number of Ministers considered that the smart use of new digital learning tools and open educational resources also had a potentially useful contribution to make to skills development.