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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Commission activities
	Information from the Commission

Delegations will find attached an information note on the:

- Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): Ministerial meeting (April 2019),

which the Commission and the Portuguese delegation will present at the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 6 December 2018 (Any Other Business item).

4th UfM Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour

Cascais, 2-3 April 2019

Portugal will host the fourth Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Ministerial Conference on Employment and Labour which is expected to gather in Lisbon, Cascais on the 2nd and 3rd of April 2019, the Ministers responsible for employment and labour of the 43 Member States of the UfM¹, the European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, the UfM Secretary General as well as other relevant entities.

Launched in 2008 - with a view to strengthening the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Euromed) established in 1995 - the UfM is an intergovernmental organisation bringing together the 28 European Union Member States and 15 countries from the Southern and Eastern shores of the Mediterranean to promote dialogue and cooperation with a view to increase integration in order to support the countries socio-economic development and to ensure stability in the region.

The 4th Ministerial Conference, co-chaired by the European Commission and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, follows-up on the decisions made by Ministers at the 2008, 2010 and 2016 Conferences, in Marrakesh, Brussels and at the Dead Sea in Jordan respectively, and the ongoing work carried out by the High Level Working Group on Employment and Labour and aims to reinforce the co-operation on employment and labour through a process of decision and shared responsibility between the shores of the Mediterranean as a means to develop a genuine employment and social dimension within the UfM.

This Conference assumes a role of major relevance for the work to be done in the context of the UfM Cooperation in the area of employment and labour, a challenge that must mobilize all the stakeholders, namely social partners and civil society.

¹ Albania, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, The Netherlands, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Syria * Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom
*Syria has suspended its membership to the UfM on December 1, 2011.
Libya has an observer status in the UfM.

On the 2nd of April will be held a Policy Conference on *Jobs, Skills and Opportunities for all*, where Ministers and a large number of stakeholders will discuss and concert positions about the most pressing labour market challenges in the Mediterranean region and identify together pathways towards inclusive labour markets which provide opportunities for all.

On the 3rd of April, Ministers will have the opportunity to report on recent developments on employment and labour and on the progress done regarding the implementation of the 2016 Ministerial Declaration, as well as to define the priorities and strategic lines for the future.

The UfM represents a huge challenge aiming at contributing to the gradual consolidation of a common space and this Ministerial Conference will certainly contribute to enrich the debate and lay grounds for common future work.

Portugal, the European Commission, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the UfM Secretary General are pleased to welcome the EPSCO Ministers at this 4th Ministerial Conference.
