



Brussels, 19 June 2026
(OR. en)

10089/26

Interinstitutional File:
2025/0239 (COD)

LIMITE

COH 101
SOC 310
SAN 387
FIN 811
CADREFIN 261
POLGEN 146
CODEC 1087

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	11769/25
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan set out in Regulation (EU) [NRPPlan] establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to quality employment, skills and social inclusion for the period from 2028 to 2034 <i>- Partial general approach</i>

I. BACKGROUND

1. On 16 July 2025, the Commission submitted to the Council and the European Parliament its proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan set out in Regulation (EU) [NRPPPlan] establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to quality employment, skills and social inclusion for the period from 2028 to 2034¹. The proposal complements the NRP Regulation proposal, setting specific rules on the scope of support of the European Social Fund under the single Fund.
2. The draft Regulation is based on Articles 164 and 175 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).
3. The European Economic and Social Committee delivered its opinion on the proposal on 28 April 2026².
4. In the European Parliament, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) has the lead responsibility. MEPs David Casa (EPP, MT, EMPL) and Marit Maij (S&D, NL, EMPL) were appointed co-rapporteurs.

II. KEY ISSUES

5. The Working Party on Structural Measures and Outermost Regions (SMOR WP) is mandated to negotiate on the ESF Regulation proposal, excluding the bracketed elements left for the discussions in the AHWP MFF, and the outcome of which is included in the negotiating box.

¹ Doc. 11769/25.

² OJ C, C/2026/1977, 28.4.2026, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2026/1977/oj>.

6. The SMOR WP discussed the proposal in two meetings, on 4 and 26 May 2026. The Cyprus Presidency attached particular importance to enhancing Member States' understanding of the proposed framework, with a particular view to the wider context of the NRP Regulation proposal.
7. More in detail, in its compromise proposals, the Presidency aimed to establish a better balance between articles and recitals, to provide definitions and clarifications relative to the scope of the regulation, and to harmonise it with the provisions of the NRP Regulation.
8. The outcome of this work is reflected in the text of the partial general approach.

III. CONCLUSION

9. Against this background, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:
 - confirm agreement on the text of the partial general approach, as set out in doc. 10163/26, and
 - recommend that the Council reach a partial general approach as set out in doc. 10163/26, as an 'A' item in a forthcoming meeting, to enable the Presidency to conduct negotiations with the European Parliament.
10. In accordance with the approach to legislative transparency endorsed by Coreper on 14 July 2020, and in full consistency with Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 and the Council's Rules of Procedure, the text of the mandate thus agreed will be made public unless the Permanent Representatives Committee objects.