



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 July 2019
(OR. en)

11128/19
PV CONS 40
SOC 546
EMPL 417
SAN 343
CONSOM 203

DRAFT MINUTES

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(**Employment, Social Policy**, Health and Consumer Affairs)

8 July 2019

CONTENTS

Page

1.	Adoption of the agenda.....	3
2.	Approval of "A" items	
a)	Non-legislative list	3

Non-legislative activities

3.	Economy of Wellbeing.....	4
4.	European Semester 2019	4
5.	Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy - employment aspects	5
6.	Any other business.....	5
	International developments in employment and social policies	
	ANNEX - Statements for the Council minutes.....	6

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The Council adopted the agenda set out in 10662/19.

2. **Approval of "A" items**

Non-legislative list

10669/19

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 10669/19 including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements related to these items are set out in the Addendum.

For the following items the documents should read as follows:

Institutional Affairs

Appointments

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | Decision on the non-replacement of Members of the Commission
<i>Confirmation of absence of unanimity</i>
Approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 03.07.2019 | 10797/19
10712/1/19 REV1
+ REV 2 (pt)
INST |
|----|---|--|

Delegated or Implementing Acts

Transport

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 12. | Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 13.3.2019
supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament
and of the Council with regard to the deployment and operational
use of cooperative intelligent transport systems
<i>Delegated act - Decision to raise objections</i>
Approved by Coreper, Part 1, on 04.07.2019 | 10471/19
7510/19
+ COR 1 (sv)
+ ADD 1 - 5
+ ADD 9
TRANS |
|-----|---|---|

Non-legislative activities

3. Economy of Wellbeing *Policy debate*

10414/19 + COR 1
10416/19

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the Presidency steering note in document 10416/19. In his presentation of the topical OECD study (doc. 10414 (+ADD1)), the OECD Secretary General José Ángel Gurría emphasised that wellbeing and sustainable economic growth are mutually reinforcing. Ministers welcomed the subject as being very timely. They highlighted the need for integration with the existing instruments, notably the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Semester, and called for the integration of the wellbeing perspective into the post-Europe 2020 strategy. Several Member States called upon the incoming Commission to give wellbeing a prominent place in its work program. Many delegations highlighted the need for a more comprehensive set of indicators, beyond GDP, to measure sustainable economic growth. Ministers also highlighted the need for a thorough assessment of the impact of all policy measures on the wellbeing of citizens, at the EU and national levels, while respecting national specificities and Member States competences. Commissioner Thyssen highlighted the fact that economic and social policies are two sides of the same coin and that the topic could feed into the next policy cycle.

4. European Semester 2019

10687/19

a) **Recommendations on the 2019 National Reform Programmes to each Member State** *Approval*

10182/1/19 REV 1
9955/19

The Council approved the employment and social policy related aspects of the country specific recommendations. HU issued a statement as set out in the Annex.

b) **Assessment of the 2019 Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) and the implementation of the 2018 CSRs** **Opinions of the EMCO and the SPC Committees** *Endorsement*

10688/19

The Council endorsed the opinions of EMCO and SPC Committees.

- c) **Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States**
(Legal basis proposed by the Commission: Article 148(2) TFEU)
Adoption

☐ 10475/19
9134/19

The Council adopted the Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

5. **Clean Planet for all: Strategic long-term vision for a climate neutral economy - employment aspects**
Policy debate

☐ 10467/19

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the Presidency questionnaire in document 10467/19. Delegations highlighted the need to prepare the labour force for a transition to a cleaner economy, including through re-skilling for those negatively affected by the transition. Several delegations mentioned the link to the MFF and the need to allocate EU resources for the transition. Commissioner Thyssen noted that the 2019 Employment and Social Developments in Europe report focused on sustainability.

The Chair concluded that: the EU should take the leading role in the transition to a climate-neutral economy; that the transition should be seen as a opportunity to improve European competitiveness; and that it was important to communicate to and convince European citizens about the importance of the transition.

Any other business

6. **International developments in employment and social policies**
Information from the Commission

☐ 10781/19

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission.

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- ☐ Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)
- ☐ Item based on a Commission proposal
-

Statements to the legislative "B" items set out in 10662/19

Ad "B" item 4: **European Semester 2019**
Recommendations on the 2019 National Reform Programmes to each
Member State

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

"DECLARATION OF HUNGARY

**on the Council Recommendation on the 2019 National Reform Programme of Hungary and
delivering a Council opinion on the 2019 Convergence Programme of Hungary**

The statements on the Hungarian judicial system are politically motivated, biased and do not reflect the reality as the relevant legislative environment has not changed in the reporting period. In addition, the text fails to establish the direct relevance of the highlighted issues for the objectives of the European Semester, thus undermining the credibility of the process.

Consequently the recommendations related to judicial independence and access to information are unjustified, unsubstantiated and therefore unacceptable. They cannot serve as the basis of a meaningful economic policy dialogue and are not conducive to genuine political ownership.

Such recommendations do not serve the purposes of the semester process and must be avoided in the future.

The modifications proposed by the Finnish Presidency fail to remedy the fundamental shortcomings of the Recommendations. The text still contains a value judgement that is not substantiated by facts and goes well beyond the material scope of the European Semester.

As a result, the Presidency, at its own discretion, submits a text to the Council which does not allow Hungary to support the adoption of its own recommendations given that is not in line with the content and legal constraints of the Semester."
