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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States - Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

On 26 February 2020, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, based on article 148(2) TFEU.

In 2018, the guidelines were aligned with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights[1]. This year, the Commission has proposed to amend the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States of 2020, in order to align them to the four dimensions of the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy (ASGS) and in particular, the environmental sustainability dimension, reflecting the Stronger Social Europe for Just Transitions narrative and integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

[1] The employment guidelines were first adopted together as an integrated package in 2010 with the broad economic guidelines, underpinning the Europe 2020 Strategy.

The original proposal submitted by the Commission has been further amended in order to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Employment Committee (EMCO) transmitted its Opinion[2] on the employment guidelines to the Council, including the Social Protection Committee's (SPC) contribution on the social aspects of the guidelines. In their work, both committees took due consideration of the European Parliament's Opinion, which was adopted in its plenary session of 10 July 2020.

The European Council, at its meeting on 26-27 March 2020, considered the employment situation of the Union and adopted conclusions thereon.

Based on the work of the Committees, the Social Questions Working Party on 27 May 2020 and on 28 September 2020 examined the proposal. In doing so, the Social Questions Working Party also took account of the European Parliament's Opinion.

The Committee of the Regions decided not to issue an opinion on the proposal[3]. The opinion of the Economic and Social Committee was adopted at its plenary on 7 May 2020.

The Council has now all the necessary opinions for its examination of the employment guidelines for 2020.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to examine the complete package of opinions and, if appropriate, to recommend to the Council to adopt the draft Decision as set out in document 11408/20[4] as an "A" item at a forthcoming session.

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2 Letter from EMCO Chair on 18 September 2020.
3 Letter from the Committee of the Regions on 29 April 2020.
4 Text finalised by the legal-linguists.