Council of the European Union

Brussels, 29 September 2023
(OR. en)

13169/1/23
REV 1

Interinstitutional File:
2023/0173(NLE)

SOC 620
EMPL 442
ECOFIN 898
EDUC 360

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. Cion doc.:	9855/23 - COM(2023) 599 final
Subject:	Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States - Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

On 24 May 2023, 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. [1]

For 2023, the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States as set out in the Annex to Council Decision (EU) 2022/2296 have been maintained[2]. The recitals have been adjusted to reflect the new EU headline and national targets on jobs, skills and poverty reduction and recent initiatives.

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

2 Doc. 9855/23

II. STATE OF PLAY

The Employment Committee (EMCO) transmitted its Opinion[3] on the employment guidelines to the Council, including the Social Protection Committee's (SPC) contribution on the social aspects of the guidelines, agreeing with the Commission's proposal.

The European Council, at its meeting on 29-30 June 2023, considered the employment situation of the Union and adopted conclusions thereon.

The European Parliament adopted its Opinion in its plenary session of 13 September 2023, approving the Commission proposal.

The Committee of the Regions decided not to issue an opinion on the proposal[4]. The opinion of the Economic and Social Committee was adopted at its plenary session on 20 September 2023.

The Council has now all the necessary opinions for its examination of the employment guidelines for 2023.

At its meeting on 14 September 2023, the Social Questions Working Party examined the proposal and agreed with it without any changes.

The outcome of proceedings from this meeting containing the agreed text in Annex is to be found in document 13266/23. This text is identical to the Commission proposal (doc. 9855/23).

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3 Letter from EMCO Chair on 11 July 2023.

4 Letter from the Committee of the Regions on 19 July 2023.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to examine the complete package of opinions and to recommend to the Council (EPSCO) to adopt, at its session on 9 October 2023, the Council Decision on the employment guidelines contained in doc. 13266/23, subject to the legal-linguistic revision.

The final version of the text for the Council Decision on the employment guidelines will be ready on 28 September (doc. 12998/23), following the completion of the legal-linguist revision.