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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the EPSCO Council of 17 October 2025:
Presidency events
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached information on the events organised by the Presidency, with a view to the EPSCO Council of 17 October 2025 (Any Other Business item).

INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS ORGANISED BY
THE DANISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. Informal meeting of Ministers of Employment and Social affairs, Aalborg, 7-8 July 2025

The Danish Presidency hosted an informal meeting for Employment and Social affairs Ministers on 7-8 July 2025 in Aalborg. The meeting focused on two issues: fair mobility and the strengthening of European competitiveness.

The first plenary session, entitled “*Fair labour mobility in the EU: Ensuring high standards for all workers and a level playing field for companies*”, began with a keynote speech from Enrico Letta, which set the scene for discussions on fair mobility and Europe’s social model. Key messages from the ensuing discussions were the need to strengthen the protection of posted workers, including more clear rules for posted third country nationals, to prevent social dumping and ensure fair competition. The importance of effective enforcement of existing EU rules and of strengthening the mandate of ELA was also emphasised.

The second plenary session entitled “*Competitiveness in the employment field: Ensuring skilled labour, quality jobs and avoiding unnecessary burdens for businesses*”, focused on how Europe can remain competitive in a global environment characterised by change. The importance of investing in skills, the upskilling and reskilling of workers and quality jobs was stressed, while at the same time avoiding unnecessary administrative burdens on businesses.

Included in the two-day programme in Aalborg was a site visit to Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy where the Danish social partners presented their role in the Danish labour market model.

2. High Level Conference on Gender Equality: Zooming in on Men and Boys

On 9 September 2025 the Danish Presidency organized a high-level conference with the participation of the Danish Minister for the Environment and Gender Equality, high level representation from the European Commission, representatives from almost all EU Member States and high-level speakers, including from academia and civil society organizations.

With a view to informing the upcoming EU Gender Equality Strategy post-2025, the conference zoomed in on men and boys. The main purpose was to highlight the importance of including men and boys in the EU's and Member States' gender equality efforts. Their involvement is important, not just as allies for women and girls' rights and empowerment, but in their own right, with a focus on areas where men and boys are overrepresented or face gender-specific challenges. Core to the purpose of the conference was to underscore that gender equality is not a zero-sum game, and that the inclusion of men and boys is not to the detriment of women and girls, but to the mutual benefit for everyone - regardless of gender.

The conference's first session zoomed in on "*gender-based challenges and inequalities that can limit the lives and opportunities of men and boys*". This included a focus on how gender stereotypes can have consequences for the lives and opportunities for men and boys as well as an exploration of men's health, vulnerability and social exclusion. Furthermore, the session identified best practices on how to engage with young men and boys.

The conference's second session focused on "*the influence of the manosphere in perpetuating stereotypical gender roles and misogyny*". This looked, in particular, at how young men and boys encounter unrealistic masculine ideals and misogynistic and sexist content online and at the consequences this has for them, their own perception and their support for gender equality.

3. High-level Conference on Affordable and Sustainable Housing

The Danish Presidency was pleased to welcome Ministers, Mayors, high-level representatives from the EU-institutions, experts and policy makers from across Europe to a High-level Conference on Affordable and Sustainable Housing on 29 and 30 of September in Copenhagen. The conference included, *inter alia*, discussions on the European dimension of housing challenges across the EU, the issue of lack of affordable housing in cities, the issue of ensuring both the affordability and sustainability of housing as well as resilience in housing financing structures. The discussions at the conference highlighted the pressing need to deal with the ongoing housing challenges in the EU.

4. Meeting of National Child Guarantee Coordinators

On 6 and 7 October, the Danish Presidency hosted a meeting of Child Guarantee coordinators with a focus on children in alternative care and their social inclusion, access to key services, as well as children and families in need of adequate housing. The coordinators shared challenges, experiences and best practices on how to secure quality alternative care and how social housing systems can provide adequate housing for families in need. Besides the national coordinators, the Presidency and the Commission had invited candidate countries and potential candidate countries to support their implementation of the Child Guarantee as part of their European path.

5. Informal Social Protection Committee meeting

On 22 and 23 September, the Danish Presidency hosted an informal meeting of the Social Protection Committee, including a thematic debate on social housing. The thematic debate highlighted the diversity of social housing systems across Member States as well as the potential of social housing in creating more socially cohesive cities and communities. The Presidency was also happy to welcome the Social Protection Committee members to a visit to the newly constructed Paper Island which includes both private and social housing along the Copenhagen harborside.

6. Informal Employment Committee meeting

On 25-26 September, the Danish Presidency hosted an informal meeting of the Employment Committee, with a thematic focus on social dialogue. The meeting included a presentation of Eurofound on the role of social dialogue in the EU member states, followed by an exchange of views and best practices on how to promote social dialogue and enhance engagement with social partners across Member States. On the second day of the meeting, the Danish social partners introduced the Danish labour market model followed by a presentation by Professor Natalie Videbæk Munkholm, from University of Southern Denmark, of the role of social dialogue in the EU legislative procedure, as well as in its subsequent implementation. The two presentations facilitated fruitful discussions and knowledge sharing among the members of the Employment Committee.

7. Upcoming High-level Conference on Independent Living

The Danish Presidency will host a High-level Conference on Independent Living taking place on 6 and 7 of November in Copenhagen. The conference will bring together policy-makers, experts and high-level speakers to discuss and highlight the issue of promoting independent living for persons with disabilities. The Presidency hopes to provide input to both policy-makers as well as the Commission's 2021-2030 strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

8. Upcoming thematic seminar on Housing First

On 17 and 18 November, the Danish Presidency is hosting a thematic seminar on Housing First in connection with a meeting of the European Platform on Combatting Homelessness. The seminar will include both Member States and civil society organization experts on the topic of Housing First. With this seminar, the Presidency hopes to contribute towards the current momentum in implementing Housing First strategies in order to improve the issue of homelessness across the EU.