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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Activities related to legal migration <i>- Information from the Presidency and the Commission</i>

Delegations will find attached information from the Presidency and the Commission on Activities related to legal migration, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 9 October 2023 (Any Other Business item).

Activities related to legal migration

Information from the Presidency

Promoting legal migration is one of the issues identified in the priorities of the Spanish Presidency.

Developing paths for regular organised and legal migration is also a key element in fighting trafficking practices around illegal migration. Building this economic dimension of migration is clearly linked to employment, talent and competences.

For this reason, the Presidency has included this AOB item on the agenda of the EPSCO Council, to bring this issue to the attention of the EPSCO ministers.

The Presidency will inform the Council also on the current efforts and negotiations taking place in the framework of the JHA Council formation, in particular in relation to the Single Permit and the Long-term residents Directives.

The point will be completed with information on relevant activities and initiatives by the European Commission in this area.

Information from the Commission

The unmet demand for labour, as approximated by the job vacancy rate, has more than doubled in recent years. The causes of labour shortages are diverse, including skills mismatches, staff retention and working conditions in some sectors. Already today and over the coming decades, the ageing population and a shrinking labour force exacerbate this challenge for the EU and its Member States.

The EU is addressing labour shortages through a comprehensive approach which includes activation of people, in particular young people, and women, reskilling and upskilling of the existing workforce, improving working conditions and facilitation of intra-EU mobility. Yet, the growing labour market needs require in addition higher levels of legal migration.

In 2023, the Commission is planning to adopt a package on talent mobility in the context of the European Year of Skills. The package will include a Communication, a legislative proposal for an EU Talent Pool, a Commission recommendation on the recognition of qualifications of third country nationals and a proposal for a Council recommendation on a learning mobility framework.

The package will support the European Skills Agenda and will take forward the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the Skills and Talent package adopted in April 2022. It will also build on ongoing cooperation with third countries on legal pathways, in particular Talent Partnerships that are currently being launched with Bangladesh, Pakistan, Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia.

In 2023, the Commission will also come forward with a Communication on a Demography Toolbox in response to the European Council conclusions of June 2023. It will provide an integrated overview of EU policy tools available to Member States to manage demographic change and its impacts, including via legal migration from outside the EU to tackle labour shortages in the near future.

Furthermore, the Commission, together with the Member States, will continue implementing the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 which promotes an integrated approach to migrant inclusion. The action plan aims to create close synergies with other EU strategies to foster equality and social cohesion to ensure everyone is fully included and participates in European societies. In particular, it will be implemented in close interaction with the action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and the EU's anti-racism action plan.