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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on guidelines for the employment policies

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2024/...

of ...

on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 148(2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee²,

After consulting the Committee of the Regions,

Having regard to the opinion of the Employment Committee³,

¹ Opinion of 23 October 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

² Opinion of 23 October 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

³ Opinion of 23 October 2024 (not yet published in the Official Journal).

Whereas:

- (1) Member States and the Union are to work towards developing a coordinated strategy for employment and in particular for the promotion of a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce, as well as labour markets that are inclusive, resilient, future-oriented and responsive to economic change, with a view to achieving the objectives of full employment and social progress, balanced economic growth, a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment laid down in Article 3 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU). Member States are to regard promoting employment as a matter of common concern and are to coordinate their action in that respect within the Council.
- (2) The Union is to combat social exclusion and discrimination, and to promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and the protection of the rights of the child as laid down in Article 3 TEU. In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union is to take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health as laid down in Article 9 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

- (3) In accordance with the TFEU, the Union has developed and implemented policy coordination instruments for economic and employment policies. As part of those instruments, the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (the ‘Employment Guidelines’) set out in the Annex to this Decision, together with the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union set out in Council Recommendation (EU) 2015/1184⁴, form the Integrated Guidelines. The Employment Guidelines are to guide policy implementation in the Member States and in the Union, reflecting the interdependence between the Member States. The resulting set of coordinated Union and national policies and reforms constitutes an appropriate overall sustainable economic, employment and social policy mix, which should achieve positive spill-over effects for labour markets and society at large, strengthen economic and social resilience and effectively respond to medium- and longer-term challenges as well as the impacts of crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased cost of living linked to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine.

⁴ Council Recommendation (EU) 2015/1184 of 14 July 2015 on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the European Union (OJ L 192, 18.7.2015, p. 27).

- (4) In order to enhance economic and social progress, including upward convergence, to support the green and digital transitions, to strengthen the Union industrial base and competitiveness and to achieve inclusive and resilient labour markets in the Union, Member States should address labour and skills shortages and promote quality and inclusive education and training for all, with a particular focus on improving basic skills, especially among disadvantaged students, and on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in school and higher education, future-oriented vocational education and training, and lifelong upskilling and reskilling, as well as effective active labour market policies and improved working conditions and career opportunities while respecting the role and autonomy of the social partners. That is of particular relevance for the less developed, remote and outermost regions of the Union, where the needs are the greatest. Shortages can be further addressed by improving fair intra-EU mobility for workers and learners and attracting talent from outside the Union. In addition, the links between the education and training systems and the labour market should be strengthened, and skills, knowledge and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning should be recognised.

- (5) The Employment Guidelines are consistent with the new economic governance framework of the Union, which entered into force on 30 April 2024⁵, and with existing Union legislation and various Union initiatives, including Council Recommendations of 14 June 2021⁶, 29 November 2021⁷, 5 April 2022⁸, 16 June 2022⁹, 28 November 2022¹⁰, 8 December 2022¹¹,

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97 (OJ L, 2024/1263, 30.4.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1263/oj>).

⁶ Council Recommendation (EU) 2021/1004 of 14 June 2021 establishing a European Child Guarantee (OJ L 223, 22.6.2021, p. 14).

⁷ Council Recommendation of 29 November 2021 on blended learning approaches for high-quality and inclusive primary and secondary education (OJ C 504, 14.12.2021, p. 21).

⁸ Council Recommendation of 5 April 2022 on building bridges for effective European higher education cooperation (OJ C 160, 13.4.2022, p.1).

⁹ Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on learning for the green transition and sustainable development (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 1), Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on a European approach to micro-credentials for lifelong learning and employability (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 10), Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on individual learning accounts (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 26) and Council Recommendation of 16 June 2022 on ensuring a fair transition towards climate neutrality (OJ C 243, 27.6.2022, p. 35).

¹⁰ Council Recommendation of 28 November 2022 on Pathways to School Success and replacing the Council Recommendation of 28 June 2011 on policies to reduce early school leaving (OJ C 469, 9.12.2022, p. 1).

¹¹ Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on access to affordable high-quality long-term care (OJ C 476, 15.12.2022, p. 1) and Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on early childhood education and care: the Barcelona targets for 2030 (OJ C 484, 20.12.2022, p. 1).

30 January 2023¹², 12 June 2023¹³ and 27 November 2023¹⁴, Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/402¹⁵, Council Resolution of 26 February 2021¹⁶, Commission Communications of 9 December 2021 on building an economy that works for people: an action plan for the social economy, of 30 September 2020 on the Digital Education Action Plan 2021-2027, of 3 March 2021 on Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030, of 7 September 2022 on a European Care Strategy, of 1 February 2023 on A Green Deal Industrial Plan for the Net-Zero Age, of 25 January 2023 on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union, of 28 September 2022 on Better assessing the distributional impact of Member States' policies, and of 20 March 2024 on labour and skills shortages in the EU: an action plan, Decisions (EU) 2021/2316¹⁷ and (EU) 2023/936¹⁸ of the European Parliament and of the Council,

¹² Council Recommendation of 30 January 2023 on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion (OJ C 41, 3.2.2023, p.1).

¹³ Council Recommendation of 12 June 2023 on strengthening social dialogue in the European Union (OJ C, C/2023/1389, 6.12.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1389/oj>).

¹⁴ Council Recommendation of 27 November 2023 on developing social economy framework conditions (OJ C, C/2023/1344, 29.11.2023, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/C/2023/1344/oj>).

¹⁵ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2021/402 of 4 March 2021 on an effective active support to employment following the COVID-19 crisis (EASE) (OJ L 80, 8.3.2021, p. 1).

¹⁶ Council Resolution on a strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training towards the European Education Area and beyond (2021-2030) (OJ C 66, 26.2.2021, p. 1).

¹⁷ Decision (EU) 2021/2316 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 December 2021 on a European Year of Youth (2022) (OJ L 462, 28.12.2021, p. 1).

¹⁸ Decision (EU) 2023/936 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 on a European Year of Skills (OJ L 125, 11.5.2023, p. 1).

and Directives (EU) 2022/2041¹⁹, (EU) 2022/2381²⁰, (EU) 2023/970²¹ and (EU) 2024/2831²² of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹⁹ Directive (EU) 2022/2041 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 October 2022 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union (OJ L 275, 25.10.2022, p. 33).

²⁰ Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2022/2381 of 23 November 2022 on improving the gender balance among directors of listed companies and related measures (OJ L 315, 7.12.2022, p. 44).

²¹ Directive (EU) 2023/970 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 May 2023 to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms (OJ L 132, 17.5.2023, p. 21).

²² Directive (EU) 2024/2831 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 on improving working conditions in platform work (OJ L, 2024/2831, 11.11.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/2831/oj>).

- (6) The European Semester combines various instruments in an overarching framework for integrated multilateral coordination and surveillance of economic and employment policies within the Union. While pursuing environmental sustainability, productivity, fairness and macroeconomic stability, the European Semester integrates the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in November 2017²³ (the ‘European Pillar of Social Rights’), and its monitoring tool, the Social Scoreboard, also allowing an analysis of risks and challenges to upward social convergence in the Union, and provides for strong engagement with social partners, civil society and other stakeholders. The European Semester also supports the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations. The economic and employment policies of the Union and the Member States should go hand in hand with the Union’s fair transition to a climate-neutral, environmentally sustainable and digital economy, improve competitiveness and productivity, ensure adequate working conditions, foster innovation, promote democracy at work, social dialogue, social justice, equal opportunities and upward socio-economic convergence, tackle inequalities and regional disparities, and fight poverty and social exclusion.

²³ Interinstitutional Proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights (OJ C 428, 13.12.2017, p. 10).

- (7) Climate change and other environment-related challenges, the need to ensure a fair green transition, energy independence and enhanced competitiveness of net-zero industries and the need to secure Europe's open strategic autonomy, as well as the development of digitalisation, artificial intelligence and the platform economy, the increase in teleworking and demographic changes are deeply transforming economies and societies in the Union. The Union and its Member States are to work together to effectively and proactively address such structural developments and adapt existing systems as needed, recognising the close interdependence of the Member States' economies and labour markets, and related policies. That requires coordinated, ambitious and effective policy action at both Union and national levels while recognising the role of social partners, in accordance with the TFEU and with the Union's provisions on economic governance, taking into account the European Pillar of Social Rights. Such policy action should encompass a boost in sustainable investment across all Union regions, a renewed commitment to appropriately sequenced reforms and investments that enhance sustainable and inclusive economic growth, the creation of quality jobs, productivity, fair working conditions, social and territorial cohesion, upward socio-economic convergence, resilience and the exercise of fiscal responsibility.

As stated in the Recommendation on learning for the green transition and sustainable development, integrating the education and training dimension systematically into other policies related to the green transition and sustainable development in a lifelong perspective can support the implementation of those policies. Support should be provided from existing Union funding programmes, and in particular the Recovery and Resilience Facility established by Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and the cohesion policy funds, including the European Social Fund Plus established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁵ and the European Regional Development Fund governed by Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶, as well as the Just Transition Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁷. Policy action should combine supply-side and demand-side measures, while taking into account the economic, environmental, employment and social impact of such measures.

²⁴ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, p. 17).

²⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

²⁶ Regulation (EU) 2021/1058 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund (OJ L 231 30.6.2021, p. 60).

²⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1056 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the Just Transition Fund (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 1).

- (8) The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out twenty principles and rights to support well-functioning and fair labour markets and welfare systems, structured around three categories: equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, and social protection and inclusion. Those principles and rights give strategic direction to the Union, ensuring that the transitions to climate-neutrality, environmental sustainability and digitalisation and the impact of demographic change are socially fair and just and preserve territorial cohesion. The European Pillar of Social Rights, with its accompanying Social Scoreboard, constitutes guidance to monitor the employment and social performance of Member States, including upward social convergence in the Union, within the European Semester, to drive reforms and investments at national, regional and local levels and to reconcile the ‘social’ and the ‘market’ in today’s modern economy, including by promoting the social economy. On 4 March 2021, the Commission put forward an Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (the ‘Action Plan’), including ambitious yet realistic Union headline targets for 2030 on employment (that at least 78 % of the population aged 20-64 should be in employment), skills (that at least 60 % of all adults should participate in training every year) and poverty reduction (that at least 15 million fewer people should be at risk of poverty or social exclusion, including 5 million children) (the ‘Union headline targets for 2030’) and complementary sub-targets, as well as a revised Social Scoreboard.

- (9) As recognised by the Heads of State or Government at the Porto Social Summit on 8 May 2021, the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights will strengthen the Union's drive towards a digital, green and fair transition and contribute to achieving upward social and economic convergence and addressing demographic challenges. The Heads of State or Government stressed that the social dimension, social dialogue and the active involvement of social partners are at the core of a highly competitive social market economy, and welcomed the new Union headline targets. They affirmed their determination, as established by the European Council's Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, to continue deepening the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights at Union and national levels, with due regard for respective competences and the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Lastly, they stressed the importance of closely following, including at the highest level, progress achieved towards the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Union headline targets for 2030.

- (10) The Union headline targets for 2030 were welcomed by the Heads of State or Government at the Porto Social Summit and by the June 2021 European Council. They will help, together with the Social Scoreboard, in monitoring progress towards the implementation of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as part of the policy coordination framework in the European Semester. In addition, the Porto Social Summit called on Member States to set ambitious national targets which, taking due account of the starting position of each Member State, should constitute an adequate contribution to the achievement of the Union headline targets for 2030. Between September 2021 and June 2022, at the invitation of the Commission, Member States submitted their national targets. At the June 2022 Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, the ministers of the Member States stressed the importance of closely following the progress achieved towards the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Union headline targets for 2030. Against that background, progress on those national targets is monitored in the Joint Employment Report adopted by the Council on 11 March 2024 (the ‘Joint Employment Report 2024’), and is integrated into the monitoring tools for the European Semester. In addition, the Joint Employment Report 2024 contained, on a pilot basis, a ‘first-stage country analysis’ on potential risks to upward social convergence, based on the features of the Social Convergence Framework, identifying seven Member States as experiencing potential risks. That conclusion led to a deeper ‘second-stage analysis’ for those seven Member States, which showed that overall challenges were not confirmed for all of them.

- (11) Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the European Council, in its conclusions of 24 February 2022, condemned Russia's actions, which seek to undermine European and global security and stability, and expressed solidarity with the Ukrainian people, underlining Russia's violation of international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. In the current context, temporary protection, as granted by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382²⁸ and extended by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2409²⁹, offers quick and effective assistance in the Union to displaced people fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and allows such displaced people to enjoy minimum rights across the Union that offer an adequate level of protection. By participating in the Union's labour markets, persons displaced from Ukraine can continue to contribute to strengthening the Union's economy and help support their country and people at home. In the future, the experience and skills acquired can contribute to rebuilding Ukraine. For unaccompanied children and teenagers, temporary protection confers the right to legal guardianship and access to childhood education and care. Member States should continue to involve social partners in the design, implementation and evaluation of policy measures that aim to address the employment and skills challenges, including the recognition of qualifications of people displaced from Ukraine. Social partners play a key role in mitigating the impact of that war in terms of preserving employment and production.

²⁸ Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022 establishing the existence of a mass influx of displaced persons from Ukraine within the meaning of Article 5 of Directive 2001/55/EC, and having the effect of introducing temporary protection (OJ L 71, 4.3.2022, p. 1).

²⁹ Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2023/2409 of 19 October 2023 extending temporary protection as introduced by Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 (OJ L, 2023/2409, 24.10.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2023/2409/oj).

- (12) Reforms to the labour market, including national wage-setting mechanisms, should observe national practices of social dialogue and collective bargaining, as well as the autonomy of the social partners, with a view to providing fair wages that enable a decent standard of living, sustainable growth and upward socio-economic convergence. Such reforms should allow for a broad consideration of socio-economic factors, including improvements in sustainability, competitiveness, innovation, the creation of quality jobs, fair working conditions, democracy at work, gender equality, in-work poverty, education, training and skills, public health, social protection and inclusion, as well as real incomes. The importance of social dialogue in tackling challenges in the world of work, including labour and skills shortages, was reaffirmed at the 2024 Val Duchesse Summit.

- (13) The Recovery and Resilience Facility and other Union funds are supporting Member States in implementing reforms and investments that are in line with the Union's priorities, making economies and societies in the Union more sustainable and resilient and better prepared for the green and digital transitions in the changing context following the COVID-19 pandemic. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has further aggravated pre-existing socio-economic challenges, as higher energy prices particularly affected low-income households. Member States and the Union should continue to ensure that the social, employment and economic impacts are mitigated and that transitions are socially fair and just, also in light of the fact that increased open strategic autonomy and an accelerated green transition will help reduce the dependence on imports of energy and other strategic products and technologies, in particular from Russia. Strengthening resilience and pursuing an inclusive and resilient society in which people are protected and empowered to anticipate and manage change, and in which they can actively participate in society and the economy, are essential.
- (14) A coherent set of active labour market policies, consisting of temporary and targeted hiring and transition incentives, skills policies, including learning for the green transition and sustainable development, and targeted, effective and adaptable employment services, is needed to support labour market transitions and make full use of untapped labour market potential, also in line with the active inclusion approach and in light of the green and digital transformations. Adequate working conditions, including occupational health and safety, and both the physical and mental health of workers should be ensured.

- (15) Discrimination in all its forms should be tackled, gender equality ensured and the employment of groups that are under-represented in the labour market supported. Equal access and opportunities for all should be ensured and poverty and social exclusion, in particular that of children, persons with disabilities and the Roma people, should be reduced, in particular by ensuring an effective functioning of labour markets and adequate and inclusive social protection systems, as set out in the Council Recommendations of 8 November 2019³⁰ and of 30 January 2023³¹. In addition, barriers to inclusive and future-oriented education, training, lifelong learning and labour-market participation should be removed. Member States should invest in early childhood education and care, in line with the European Child Guarantee and the Recommendation on the ‘Barcelona targets for 2030’, in making vocational education and training more attractive and inclusive, in line with the Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020³², and in digital and green skills, in line with the Digital Education Action Plan and the Recommendations on learning for the green transition and sustainable development and on Pathways to School Success. Access to affordable and adequate housing, including through social housing, is a necessary condition for ensuring equal opportunities. Homelessness should be tackled, specifically with prevention measures and by promoting access to permanent housing and the provision of enabling support services.

³⁰ Council Recommendation of 8 November 2019 on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed (OJ C 387, 15.11.2019, p. 1).

³¹ Council Recommendation of 30 January 2023 on adequate minimum income ensuring active inclusion (OJ C 41, 3.2.2023, p. 1).

³² Council Recommendation of 24 November 2020 on vocational education and training (VET) for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience (OJ C 417, 2.12.2020, p. 1).

Timely and equal access to affordable high-quality long-term care, in line with the Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022³³, and healthcare services, including prevention and healthcare promotion, are particularly relevant, in light of potential future health risks and in a context of ageing societies. The potential of persons with disabilities to contribute to economic growth and social development should be further realised, in line with the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which invited Member States to set up employment and adult learning targets for persons with disabilities. The EU Roma Strategic Framework³⁴ highlights the capacity within the marginalised Roma communities to reduce labour and skills shortages and aims to cut the employment gap between Roma and the general population by at least half. New technologies and evolving workplaces throughout the Union allow for more flexible working arrangements as well as improved productivity and work-life balance, whilst contributing to the Union's green commitments. Those developments also bring new challenges to labour markets, affecting working conditions, health and safety at work and effective access to adequate social protection for workers and the self-employed. Member States, in collaboration with the social partners, should ensure that new forms of work organisation translate into quality jobs and adequate healthy and safe workplaces and working conditions, as well as work-life balance, active and healthy ageing, maintaining established labour and social rights, and strengthening the European social model.

³³ Council Recommendation of 8 December 2022 on access to affordable high-quality long-term care (OJ C 476, 15.12.2022, p. 1).

³⁴ Communication of the Commission of 7 October 2020, entitled 'A Union of Equality: EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation', and Council Recommendation of 12 March 2021 on Roma equality, inclusion and participation (OJ C 93, 19.3.2021, p. 1).

- (16) The Integrated Guidelines should serve as a basis for the country-specific recommendations that the Council addresses to Member States. Member States should make full use of their REACT-EU resources made available in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2020/2221 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁵, which reinforces the cohesion policy funds and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived until 2023. Due to the current Ukrainian crisis, Regulation (EU) 2020/2221 has been further complemented by Regulation (EU) 2022/562 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁶, as well as by a further amendment to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁷ concerning increased pre-financing for REACT-EU, and by a new unit cost in order to help accelerate the integration of people leaving Ukraine and entering the Union as provided for in Regulation (EU) 2022/613 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁸.

³⁵ Regulation (EU) 2020/2221 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 December 2020 amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 as regards additional resources and implementing arrangements to provide assistance for fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its social consequences and for preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy (REACT-EU) (OJ L 437, 28.12.2020, p. 30).

³⁶ Regulation (EU) 2022/562 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 April 2022 amending regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards Cohesion's Action for Refugees in Europe (CARE) (OJ L 109, 8.4.2022, p. 1).

³⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159).

³⁸ Regulation (EU) 2022/613 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 April 2022 amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 223/2014 as regards increased pre-financing from REACT-EU resources and the establishment of a unit cost (OJ L 115, 13.4.2022, p. 38).

In addition, for the 2021-2027 programming period, Member States should make full use of the European Social Fund Plus, the European Regional Development Fund, the Recovery and Resilience Facility and other Union funds, including the Just Transition Fund and InvestEU established by Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁹, as well as the Technical Support Instrument, to foster quality employment and social investments, to fight poverty and social exclusion, to combat discrimination, to ensure accessibility and inclusion, and to promote upskilling and reskilling opportunities for the workforce, lifelong learning and high-quality education and training for all, including digital literacy and skills in order to empower citizens with the knowledge and qualifications required for a digital and green economy. Member States should also make full use of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers established by Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴⁰ to support workers made redundant as a result of major restructuring events, such as socio-economic transformations that are the result of global trends and technological and environmental changes. While the Integrated Guidelines are addressed to Member States and the Union, they should be implemented in partnership with all national, regional and local authorities, closely involving parliaments, as well as the social partners and representatives of civil society.

³⁹ Regulation (EU) 2021/523 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 establishing the InvestEU Programme and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/1017 (OJ L 107, 26.3.2021, p. 30).

⁴⁰ Regulation (EU) 2021/691 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for Displaced Workers (EGF) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1309/2013 (OJ L 153, 3.5.2021, p. 48).

- (17) The Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee should monitor how the relevant policies are implemented in light of the Employment Guidelines, in line with their respective mandates under the TFEU. Those committees and the Council preparatory bodies involved in the coordination of economic and social policies should work closely together. Policy dialogue between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission should be maintained, in particular as regards the Employment Guidelines.
- (18) The Social Protection Committee was consulted,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (the ‘Employment Guidelines’), as set out in the Annex, are hereby adopted. The Employment Guidelines shall form part of the Integrated Guidelines.

Article 2

The Member States shall take the Employment Guidelines into account in their employment policies and reform programmes, which shall be reported in accordance with Article 148(3) TFEU.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council

The President
