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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	COUNCIL DECISION on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States *- Adoption*

I. INTRODUCTION

On 19 June 2024, 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 2024, the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States are updated to bring in more elements related to education and training, as well as new technologies, artificial intelligence and algorithmic management, and to reflect recent policy initiatives of particular relevance such as on platform work, affordable housing and tackling labour and skills shortages.

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

II. STATE OF PLAY

The European Council, at its meeting on 21-22 March 2024, considered the employment situation of the Union and adopted conclusions thereon.

The European Parliament adopted its Opinion in its plenary session of 22 October 2024.

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.

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 session on 23 October 2024.

The Council has now all the necessary opinions for its examination of the employment guidelines for 2024.

At its meeting on 11 November 2024, the Social Questions Working Party examined the proposal and reached an agreement in principle on the text of the draft Decision, as set out in doc. 15554/24. In doing so, the Social Questions Working Party also took account of the European Parliament's Opinion. The Council Decision has been subject to legal-linguistic revision.

[2] Letter from EMCO Chair on 23 October 2024.
[3] Letter from the Committee of the Regions on 11 November 2024.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:

- confirm the agreement in the Social Questions Working Party on the text of the Council Decision on the employment guidelines contained in doc. 15554/24 and
- recommend to the Council (EPSCO) to adopt, at its session on 2 December 2024, the Council Decision on the employment guidelines contained in doc. 15095/24, as revised by the legal linguists and the Guidelines as set out in doc. 15095/24 ADD 1.