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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
No. Cion doc.:	13365/22 - COM(2022) 526 final
Subject:	Proposal for a DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on a European Year of Skills 2023**:** *Analysis of the final compromise text with a view to agreement*

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 12 October 2022, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Decision on a European Year of Skills 2023, the overall objective of which is to further promote a mindset of reskilling and upskilling. In so doing, the Year shall aim to boost the competitiveness of European companies and to contribute to quality job creation, realising the full potential of the digital and green transition in a socially fair, inclusive and just manner. The proposed legal basis is Article 149 TFEU, which requires that the European Parliament and the Council act in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure.

2. The Committee of the Regions adopted its resolution at the plenary of 30 November-1 December 2022 and the European Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion at its plenary session on 15 December 2022.

3. The Council agreed on its negotiating mandate in Coreper on 30 November 2022.

4. The European Parliament voted to start inter-institutional negotiations on 14 February 2023.

5. The first trilogue took place on 16 February. At the second and closing trilogue, on 7 March, the negotiating teams of the Council and the Parliament reached a provisional agreement, the main elements of which are outlined below.

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II. ELEMENTS OF THE PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT

1. Start-date and duration of the year

Article 1 "Subject matter" designates the period starting from 9 May 2023 until 8 May 2024 as "European Year of Skills". The title of the Decision was adjusted to refer to "European Year of Skills", without specifying the calendar year. Article 7 "Monitoring and evaluation" was adjusted so that the expected date of the report from the Commission to the European Parliament and Council reflects the agreed start and end-date for European Year of Skills.

2. Objectives

The overall objective of the Year was agreed to be to further promote a mindset of upskilling and reskilling, while the outcomes of the year were agreed to be more encompassing. Beyond aiming to boost the competitiveness of European companies, the Year shall also contribute to quality job creation. It shall also further promote eaqual access to skills development and contribute to continuous learning, empowering people to access quality jobs and to fully participate in the economy and society. The four more specific objectives remained largely in line with the mandate.

3. Target groups

The target groups mentioned for a specific focus in this Decision, as listed particularly in Article 2, are all but one the result of the merger of the Council mandate and the EP amendments. The target groups are: women and young people, especially those not in education, employment or training (NEETs), low-skilled persons, older workers, persons with disabilities, people from disadvantaged and diverse backgrounds, people living in remote areas and in the outermost regions, as well as internally displaced persons from Ukraine.

4. Measures

The measures remained largely in line with the objectives of the Year, with a strenghtened participation of social partners. An additional relevant measure was added, namely promoting the design of national, sectoral and company-level skills strategies and training.

5. Coordination at national, Union and international level

The lists of counterparts and stakeholders at the various levels were further detailed.

III. CONCLUSION

1. The Permanent Representatives Committee is thus invited to:

- agree on the compromise text provisionally agreed in the trilogues, as set out in the Addendum to this Note, and

- mandate the Presidency to inform the European Parliament that, should the European Parliament adopt its position at first reading, in accordance with Article 294 paragraph 3 of TFEU, in the form set out in the text contained in the Addendum to this document (subject to revision by the legal linguists of both institutions), the Council would, in accordance with Article 294, paragraph 4 of TFEU, approve the European Parliament's position and the act shall be adopted in the wording which corresponds to the European Parliament's position.

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