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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
(Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)  
14 March 2022

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## 1. Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda set out in doc. 6926/1/22 REV 1.

## 2. Approval of 'A' items

### Non-legislative list

6927/22 + ADD 1

The Council adopted the "A" items listed in 6927/22 + ADD 1, including COR and REV documents presented for adoption. Statements to these items are set out in the Addendum.

## Legislative deliberations

(Public deliberation in accordance with Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union)

### 3. Directive on improving the gender balance among directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures 6468/22 + ADD 1 *General approach*

The Council reached a general approach as set out in doc. 6468/22 and agreed to mandate the Presidency to conduct negotiations with the European Parliament on that basis.

The statements by Hungary and Poland are set out in the Annex to these minutes.

## Non-legislative activities

### 4. Combating discrimination in recruitment and promoting diversity in the world of work: tools and experiences 6722/22 *Policy debate*

The Council held a policy debate entitled Combating discrimination in recruitment and promoting diversity in the world of work: tools and experiences, based on a Presidency steering note as set out in doc. 6722/22.

5. **2022 European Semester** ☐
- (a) **Conclusions on the 2022 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy and Joint Employment Report** 6473/22  
*Approval*
- The Council approved Conclusions on the 2022 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy and Joint Employment Report as set out in doc. 6473/22.
- (b) **Joint Employment Report 2022** ☐ 6188/22  
*Adoption*
- The Council adopted the Joint Employment Report 2022 as set out in doc. 6188/22
6. **Fostering full participation by older people in the labour market** ☐ 6463/22  
*Policy debate*
- The Council held a policy debate entitled Fostering full participation by older people in the labour market, based on a Presidency steering note set out in doc. 6463/22.
7. **Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report on long-term unemployment** ☐ 6575/1/22 REV 1  
*Approval*
- The Council approved Conclusions on the European Court of Auditors' special report on long-term unemployment as set out in doc. 6575/1/22 REV 1.

## **Any other business**

8. (a) **Situation in Ukraine** [2] 7064/22  
*Information from the Presidency and the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency and the Commission on the situation in Ukraine, on the basis of doc. 7064/22.

- (b) **Annual report on equality between women and men** [2]  
*Information from the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Commission on the Annual report on equality between women and men.

- (c) **Implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan** [2]  
*Information from the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Commission on the annual report on the implementation of the EU anti-racism action plan.

- (d) **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan – national goals for employment, skills and poverty reduction** [2]  
*Information from the Commission on the state of play*

The Council took note of the information from the Commission on national goals for employment, skills and poverty reduction in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.

- (e) **European Child Guarantee** [2]  
*Information from the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Commission on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee.

- (f) **Communication on the action plan to develop the social and solidarity economy** ☐ 14890/21  
*Information from the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Commission on the follow-up of its action Plan for the social economy as set out in doc. 14890/21.

- (g) **Tripartite social summit** ☐  
*Information from the Presidency and the Commission*

The Council took note of the information from the Presidency and the Commission on the Tripartite Social Summit that will take place on 23 March.

- (h) **Employment Committee (EMCO) and Social Protection Committee (SPC) work programmes for 2022** ☐ 6425/22  
6416/22  
*Information from the respective chairs*

The Council took note of the information from the chairs of the EMCO Committee and the SPC Committee on the respective committees' work programmes for 2022, on the basis of docs. 6425/22 and 6416/22.

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- ① First reading  
☐ Public debate proposed by the Presidency (Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure)  
☐ Item based on a Commission proposal
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**Statements to the legislative or public "B" items set out in doc. 6926/1/22 REV 1**

**Ad "B" item 3:**

**Directive on improving the gender balance among directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures**

*General approach*

**STATEMENT BY HUNGARY**

“Hungary considers initiatives to promote equal opportunities and equal treatment between women and men to be of the utmost importance, and therefore we generally support the aim of the proposed directive to strengthen women's participation at all levels of decision-making, including in the economic sphere. Throughout the negotiations the text improved significantly, however our previously expressed concerns are not addressed satisfactorily as regard to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, and the need to appropriately take into consideration the different company and corporate laws of EU Member States.

Hungary recognizes and promotes equality between men and women in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Hungary, and the primary law, principles and values of the European Union, as well as commitments and principles stemming from the international law. For these reasons, the expression ‘gender equality’ will be interpreted by Hungary as equality between women and men, the expression ‘gender balance’ will be interpreted by Hungary as balance between women and men, in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 8 and Article 157 paragraph 3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In connection with the above, the remaining expressions containing the term ‘gender’ will be interpreted by Hungary as sex, in accordance with Article 10, Article 19 paragraph 1 and Article 157 paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Furthermore Hungary declares that the Commission’s Communication on ‘A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025’ referred to in the directive should be interpreted with due regard to the national competences and the specific circumstances in each Member State.”

## STATEMENT BY POLAND

“Equality between women and men is enshrined in the treaties of the European Union as a fundamental right. Poland ensures equality between women and men within the framework of the Polish national legal system in accordance with international human rights treaties and within the framework of the fundamental values and principles of the European Union. For these reasons, Poland will interpret the expression ‘gender equality’ as equality between women and men, and the expression ‘gender balance’ as balance between women and men, in accordance with Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union and Articles 8 and 157(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. In view of the above, Poland will interpret other expressions containing the term ‘gender’ as referring to ‘sex’, in accordance with Article 10, Article 19(1) and Article 157(2) and (4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.”

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