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**SOC 313 EMPL 207 EDUC 192 ECOFIN 506** 

## **NOTE**

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	National targets one year after the Porto Social Summit
	- Exchange of views

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Porto Social Summit held on 7 and 8 May 2021 marked a major step towards social Europe with the presentation of the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and the presentation of three headline targets for 2030, welcomed by the EU leaders in the context of the Porto Declaration of 8 May 2021:

An employment rate of at least 78 % of the population aged 20 to 64, to be achieved by reducing the gender employment gap by at least 50 %, increasing the provision of formal early childhood education and care and reducing the rate of young people aged 15 to 29 not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to 9 % or less;

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- An annual adult training rate of at least 60 %, with a focus on reducing early school leaving and on digital skills to ensure that at least 80 % of people aged 16 to 74 have basic digital skills;
- Reducing the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion by at least 15 million (compared to 2019), including at least 5 million children.

In order to implement and achieve these objectives at EU level, in line with the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights and to respond to the call of the Porto Social Commitment, the European Commission invited the Member States to implement the three objectives nationally, starting in the summer of 2021. To this end, each of the Member States has engaged in extensive consultation with national social partners and civil society, as well as in technical work.

The European and national targets will form part of the monitoring of implementation of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, in connection with the coordination of European Semester policies.

## II. RESULTS OF NATIONAL WORK

In bilateral discussions, the Commission and the Member States worked to adjust the national targets before adopting them. Following these discussions, it appears that the targets set by the Member States will make it possible to go beyond the European targets announced in Porto for employment and poverty reduction, and to get closer to the target for skills.

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## III. CONCLUSIONS

Having taken note of this work, ministers are invited to express their views on the national targets on the basis of the following questions:

- How does the setting of national targets reflect and highlight policy priorities set at national level?
- How are social partners and civil society involved in the definition and achievement of national targets in your Member State? Are other stakeholders also involved?
- How do you think that setting national targets strengthens social Europe? Do you consider sharing good practice between Member States to be an important step towards achieving both the European and the national objectives? If so, how do you think this could be organised?

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