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**SOC 406
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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Migration Compact
= Information from the Italian delegation

Delegations will find attached a document from the Italian delegation on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 16 June 2016 (Any Other Business).

'Migration Compact'

Presentation at the EPSCO Council – Employment, on 16 June

On 15 April Italy presented the Migration Compact initiative, a contribution aimed at rationalising and strengthening the existing European instruments to respond to the emergency caused by the increase in migration flows from sub-Saharan countries, mainly via the 'Central Mediterranean route'.

The starting point of the Italian proposal is that the flows that affect the central Mediterranean are of a structural nature and are on an increasing trend. It is therefore necessary to:

- 1) make efforts to ensure greater coherence between the internal and external dimension of migration policy;
- 2) promote a tailor-made approach, taking into consideration the specificities of each priority country;
- 3) mobilise additional resources for Africa in both the short and long term.

On 7 June, the Commission adopted its 'Communication on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration', which has taken on board many ideas proposed by Italy as part of the 'Migration Compact'.

Three elements of the approach are particularly significant:

1. identifying African priority countries, with which tailor-made 'compacts' should be immediately finalised;
2. setting out initiatives to be undertaken in the short and medium-to-long term;
3. identifying financial resources to start implementing such initiatives.

There are of course immediate actions – very well identified in the Commission Communication – but also medium and long term initiatives that can be promoted and implemented together. Further reflection is needed on financing, including high-impact investments in key sectors.

Migration is a global phenomenon which needs a global approach and consistent policies based on all possible contributions towards concrete solutions. Migration is both a challenge and an opportunity to be seized.

According to the latest Eurostat projections, the modest growth in the EU's total population expected over the 2015-2030 period will come widely and primarily from the increase of migrants. Migration will compensate for the low and decreasing birth rate. Economic growth and employment – often in terms of job creation – will also rely on migrants' contributions.

The role of Ministers of Labour and Social Policy could be developed along the following lines:

- strengthening the social and economic inclusion of those already residing in our countries, in particular by integrating labour and welfare policies;
- promoting legal migration opportunities and circular migration paths within a training cooperation framework designed to support the development of both economic investment and social capital;
- valorising the role of 'diaspora' already established in our countries as lever of co-development.

Much experience has been gained in recent years/months in the three domains mentioned above. The contribution of labour and social policy to the management and solution of the crisis could be structured around these good practices.