



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Employment Committee
to: Delegations
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Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (EMCO opinion)

Delegations will find attached the opinion of the Employment Committee, as approved during its meeting on 31 January 2013.

EMCO Opinion

on the Commission proposal for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States

On 26 March 2010, the European Council launched a new strategy for jobs and growth, Europe 2020, based on enhanced coordination of economic and employment policies. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides that Member States are to regard their economic and employment policies as a matter of common concern and coordinate them within the Council.

The employment guidelines were adopted on 21 October 2010, and as provided by the adoption decision, should remain stable until 2014 to ensure a focus on implementation.

In line with the provisions of Article 148 TFEU, the Employment Committee has examined the Commission's proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States.

In a difficult economic climate the Committee has identified priority areas for reform, in line with the Employment Guidelines, and stressed the need for a stronger emphasis on implementation of Country-Specific Recommendations. Given this need, and given the developing state of the Europe 2020 strategy and proposals for enhanced economic governance, the Employment Committee supports the Commission proposal to maintain the Employment Guidelines as laid down in Council Decision 2010/707/EU of 21 October 2010 unchanged for 2013.

The Committee recalls that the employment guidelines should form the basis for any country-specific recommendations that the Council may address to the Member States under Article 148(4) TFEU, in parallel with the country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member States under Article 121(2) TFEU.