



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 March 2012

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NOTE

from: Council General Secretariat
to: Delegations

No. prev. doc.: 6068/1/12 REV 1 SOC 87 ECOFIN 97 EDUC 32

No. Cion prop.: 17736/12 SOC 1045 ECOFIN 835 EDUC 278

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States
- Opinion of the Committee of the Regions

Delegations will find attached the letter from the Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, Mr. Gerhard Stahl, addressed to the Secretary General of the Council Secretariat, Mr. Uwe Corsepius, regarding the decision of the Committee of the Regions not to issue an opinion on the employment guidelines for 2012.



Committee of the Regions

The Secretary General

Brussels, 30.01.2012* 161
 GS/MC/MCNC/WD/mlc – D 47/2012

Reference: Letter SGS11/14942, 12.12.2011

Subject: Proposal for a Council Regulation on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States Guidelines
 Ref. 2011/0390 (CNS), COM(2011) 813 final

Dear Mr Secretary General,

We would like to thank you for your consultation request to the Committee of the Regions regarding the dossier: *Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2012*¹.

At its meeting on 2 December, 2011, the Commission for Economic and Social Policy carefully considered this request and has decided not to issue an opinion on this matter.

However, I would like to draw your attention to the views expressed by the Committee of the Regions in its resolutions on *a better tool-box to implement the EU 2020 Strategy: the integrated guidelines for the economic and employment policies of the Member States and the Union* CdR 175/2010 fin and *stronger involvement of Local and Regional Authorities in the Europe 2020 strategy* CdR 199/2010 adopted by the CoR on 10 June 2010.

In these resolutions, the Committee of the Regions supports the renewed design of the broad economic and employment guidelines and the concept to integrate them into a coherent document aligned with the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Mr Uwe Corsepius
 Secretary General
 Council of the European Union
 Rue de la Loi 175
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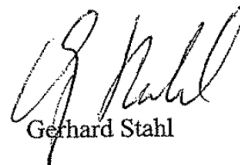
¹ Ref. 2011/0390 (CNS), COM(2011) 813 final

The CoR consequently therefore supports the proposal for the Council Decision extending the set of guidelines to the following year without any substantial changes.

It should be noted however that these guidelines must be implemented with due respect to the principles of subsidiarity, proportionality and partnership to ensure the involvement of the local and regional authorities and increased political ownership.

Also, appropriate recognition should be given to territorial pacts as a tool for implementation of the National Reform Programmes and for the application of multilevel governance within the overall framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Yours sincerely,



Gerhard Stahl