



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 20 April 2012

**6647/12
ADD 1**

**PV/CONS 7
SOC 129
SAN 37
CONSOM 20**

ADDENDUM to DRAFT MINUTES

Subject: **3146th** meeting of the Council of the European Union (**EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY**, HEALTH and CONSUMER AFFAIRS), held in Brussels on 17 February 2012

PUBLIC DELIBERATION ITEMS¹

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AGENDA ITEMS (doc. 6206/12 OJ/CONS 7 SOC 96 SAN 22 CONSOM 15)

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¹ Deliberations on Union legislative acts (Article 16(8) of the Treaty on European Union), other deliberations open to the public and public debates (Article 8 of the Council's Rules of Procedure).

NON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES - PUBLIC DEBATES

(in accordance with Article 8(2) of the Council's Rules of Procedure [proposed by the Presidency])

3. Women on Company Boards

- Policy debate
5956/12 SOC 73 ECOFIN 89 COMPET 52
+ COR 1

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of the Presidency Note in doc. 5956/12 + COR 1. Ministers identified various barriers to increasing the number of women on company boards, including gender stereotypes, the lack of care services for children and other dependants, and the unequal sharing of domestic and family responsibilities. Delegations discussed different ways of overcoming such barriers, including measures to reconcile work, family and private life, awareness-raising, and rules and incentives for improving the gender balance at the decision-making level in the public sector, in state-owned companies, in private companies and in employers' and workers' organisations. In this context, ministers described successful measures introduced at the national level. In addition to the above-mentioned approaches, methods advocated included fostering female entrepreneurship; promoting family-friendly workplaces; improving transparency regarding the composition of company boards; and education, training and mentoring. Regarding the question as to how the gender balance on the boards of listed companies could be improved at the European level, many delegations favoured a voluntary approach, at least at this stage, while certain others were in favour of introducing binding quotas.

4. Europe 2020 Strategy

- Policy debate
5895/12 SOC 66 ECOFIN 80 EDUC 23

The Council held a policy debate on the basis of a Presidency note (5895/12) on issues relevant to the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Semester and the Annual Growth Survey (AGS) - including the Joint Employment Report (JER). The results of this debate were reflected in the Presidency Synthesis Report. The Council Conclusions and the Joint Employment Report were submitted as the EPSCO Council's contribution to the European Council of 1-2 March.

(a) Annual Growth Survey and the Joint Employment Report in the context of the European Semester

17229/11 ECOFIN 804 SOC 1017 COMPET 534 EDUC 274 ENV 891
RECH 380 ENER 376 FISC 151

+ ADD 3

+ ADD 3 REV 1 (bg)

(i) Priorities for action in the areas of employment and social policies: political guidance in 2012

- Adoption of the Council conclusions

6113/12 SOC 90 ECOFIN 106 EDUC 35

+ COR 1

The Council adopted the conclusions as set out in doc. 6113/12 + COR 1. The final version of the conclusions is to be found in doc. 6601/12. These conclusions were forwarded to the European Council.

- Adoption of the Joint Employment Report

5899/2/12 SOC 68 ECOFIN 82 EDUC 24 REV 2

The Council adopted the Joint Employment Report as set out in doc. 5899/2/12, noting the abstention of the United Kingdom, and agreed to submit the Report to the European Council.

- Endorsement of the SPC opinion on the 2012 Annual Growth Survey

5851/12 SOC 63 ECOFIN 75

The Council endorsed the SPC opinion on the 2012 AGS, as set out in doc. 5851/12.

(ii) Proposal for Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States

- General approach

17736/11 SOC 1045 ECOFIN 835 EDUC 278

5730/12 SOC 52 ECOFIN 59 EDUC 20

6068/1/12 SOC 87 ECOFIN 97 EDUC 32 REV 1

The Council reached a general approach as set out in doc. 6068/1/12 REV 1.

(b) The social impact of the economic crisis and ongoing fiscal consolidation: Third Report of the Social Protection Committee (2011)

- Endorsement of main messages
5858/12 SOC 64 ECOFIN 76

The Council endorsed the main messages of the Social Protection Committee's third report, as set out in doc. 5858/12.

(c) Alert Mechanism Report on Macroeconomic Imbalances

- Presentation by the Commission
6360/12 ECOFIN 133 UEM 31 SOC 115

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on the basis of doc. 6360/12 (Alert Mechanism Report).

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