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THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Council

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Subject: **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs** Council meeting on 6 and 7 December 2012

Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on establishing a Health for Growth Programme, the third multi-annual programme of EU action in the field of health for the period 2014-2020
- Information from the Presidency
(Other business item)

Introduction

1. The Commission submitted the above mentioned proposal on 9 November 2011. The general objectives of the programme are to encourage innovation in healthcare and increase the sustainability of health systems, to improve the health of EU citizens and protect them from cross-border health threats.

2. The Economic and Social Committee issued its opinion¹ on the proposal on 23 February 2012.
3. The Committee of the Regions issued its opinion² on the proposal on 3 May 2012.
4. The ENVI Committee of the European Parliament voted its first reading report³ on 21 June 2012, adopting 89 amendments.
5. The Council reached a partial general approach⁴ on 22 June 2012.

State of play

6. The Working Party on Public Health has examined the proposal during the Cyprus Presidency on 3 occasions, most recently on 12 October 2012.
7. The Presidency has negotiated with the European Parliament and the Commission during three Trilogues, most recently on 27 November 2012. The Presidency used the mandate obtained from Coreper on 19 September (doc. 13653/12), which was then renewed at Coreper on 21 November (doc. 16100/12 + few changes agreed at the Coreper).
8. During the Trilogues a lot of progress was made. At the most recent Trilogue the following outstanding issues were discussed: a) Title of the Proposal, b) Confirmation of outstanding compromise proposals on Articles and the Annex, c) Article 7.3(c) on co-financing of actions, d) Delegated acts vs. implementing powers for the adoption of the annual work-programme, e) Confirmation of outstanding compromise proposals on Recitals.

¹ SOC/437
² NAT-V-018
³ A7-0224/2012
⁴ 10769/12

9. The Rapporteur, Ms Françoise Grossetête, shared the objective to get an agreement on all possible points. At the beginning of the Trilogue, the Rapporteur stressed the political position of the EP on the budget, explaining that the EP would not like to see a lowering of the budget for this programme and a final agreement can not be reached without having a budget figure.
10. On the Title an agreement was found, and the compromise text, taking inspiration from the title of the current programme, reads 'The third Programme of the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020)'.
11. Regarding the outstanding compromise proposals on Articles, the Annex and the Recitals, the Parliament agreed to the compromise proposals as submitted by the Council, with the exception to the text for action 4.1, and the amendments 68 and 69, where minor changes were made vis-à-vis the Coreper mandate of 21 November.
12. For Article 7(3)(c), no agreement was found, and the Rapporteur requested the Commission to facilitate agreement and provide an alternative proposal that could be agreeable to both legislators.
13. On delegated vs. implementing acts, the Presidency set out clearly the position of the Council on the need for implementing acts for the adoption of the annual work programmes. However, the Parliament has a fundamentally different view, and indicated that this is a Red line for the Parliament on all files and they would not be in a position to move from their proposal. No agreement was found.
14. Therefore, with the exception of Article 7(3)(c) and the two horizontal issues of the financial envelope for the programme and delegated vs. implementing acts, an agreement on the rest of the text has been reached. The changes vis-à-vis the General Approach of June 2012 are reflected in document 17002/12.