



**Brussels, 13 June 2016  
(OR. en)**

**9677/16**

**ECOFIN 526  
UEM 237  
SOC 367  
EMPL 254  
COMPET 342  
ENV 373  
EDUC 220  
RECH 214  
ENER 227  
JAI 500**

**NOTE**

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**From:** General Secretariat of the Council  
**To:** Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

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**Subject:** Draft Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes  
2016 to each Member State  
- Approval

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In the context of the 2016 European Semester process, the Commission submitted the proposals for Country-Specific Recommendations (as listed in document 9148/16) to the Council on 19 May 2016.

The 27 documents (one for all Member States, excluding Greece) were examined by the relevant committees (EMCO, SPC, EPC, EFC/EFCA). Certain issues of horizontal substance were also examined in joint meetings, with the aim of ensuring the consistency of the recommendations across the Member States.

The texts of the draft recommendations for each Member State, as resulting from the Committees' discussions, are set out in doc. 9187 /16. The draft explanatory note on the "comply or explain" rule summarising the reasons for amendments, and taking into account the conclusions of the multilateral surveillance reviews, is set out in doc. 9327/16.

With regard to the outcome of the discussions in the preparatory bodies for EPSCO, the Chairs of the Employment and Social Protection Committees have informed the Presidency about their Committees' positions on some recommendations. Their joint letter is to be found in the annex to this note.

Regarding the organisation of work at Council level, full consideration has been given to the cross-cutting issues to be discussed in both Council formations, EPSCO and ECOFIN; the latter will approve the economic/financial and MIP related parts on 17 June. These two Council formations need to synchronise their work with a view to providing joint input to the discussion at the European Council on 28-29 June.

Coreper is invited to examine the draft Recommendations set out in the country documents listed in doc. 9187/16, with a view to enabling the Council (EPSCO) to approve the employment and social policy related aspects of the draft Council Recommendations for each Member State.

The Country-specific Recommendations will be submitted to the European Council on 28-29 June 2016 for endorsement.



**The Employment Committee**  
**The Social Protection Committee**  
The Chairs

Brussels, 10 June 2016

**Subject: Opinions of the EPSCO Committees on the Commission proposals for Council recommendations**

Dear Ministers,

We have the pleasure to transmit to you for your approval the opinions on the draft Council recommendations (CSRs) for each Member State, as prepared in close cooperation by the Employment and Social Protection Committees. Each of our Committees has prepared a horizontal Opinion which we are also transmitting for your endorsement.

Both EMCO and the SPC have worked closely together, and alongside the ECOFIN committees, in providing these opinions, which are now sent to the two Council formations. This collaborative effort was substantially aided by our preparatory work throughout the year carrying out multilateral surveillance reviews on the implementation of the 2015 CSRs, and through both the Employment Performance Monitor and the Social Protection Performance Monitor.

The committee phase leading to this opinion has seen positive and close cooperation with the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) on issues of shared interest. These opinions reflect in full the joint decisions taken together on 31 May – 1 June 2016 by the EPC, EMCO and the SPC.

Furthermore, the opinions we submit to your attention reflect in full the decisions taken by the EMCO and the SPC at their joint meeting on 7 June 2016, when we addressed issues of EPSCO exclusive competence, and account for the views of the **Education Committee** whose representatives were invited to attend the EMCO meeting on 8 June when discussing these CSRs. EMCO also took the opportunity at the beginning of its meeting to canvas the views of European Social Partners.

These final opinions that we submit to the attention of EPSCO ministers have taken the initial Commission draft recommendations as a starting point. Any changes to these drafts proposed by a Member State have been included in this opinion if they were accepted by the Commission or if they received the support of a qualified majority of Member States.

We would personally like to thank the Netherlands Presidency for their steering of the process. We hope these opinions provide a good contribution to the EPSCO Council policy debate in view of the June **European Council**.

Yours sincerely,



Tom Bevers  
Chair of the **Employment Committee**



Thomas Dominique  
Chair of the **Social Protection Committee**