



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 February 2014

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SOC 80

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from: The Working Party on Social Questions

on: 4 February 2014

No. Cion prop.: 16118/13 (COM(2013) 740 final)

Subject: Proposal for a Council Decision on a Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment

Delegations will find attached the text of the draft Decision as resulting from the Social Questions Working Party's discussions on 4 February.

FR, NL and SK entered scrutiny reservations on the outcome of the discussions and on the procedure in the light of the legal basis (Article 352 - consent procedure).

UK maintains a general scrutiny reservation.

CZ, DE, MT and UK entered parliamentary scrutiny reserves.

Draft

COUNCIL DECISION
on a Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 352,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament¹,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national Parliaments,

Acting in accordance with a special legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3 TEU provides that one of the objectives of the European Union is to work for a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress
- (2) In defining and implementing its policies and activities, the Union must take into account their social dimension, specifically the requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health, in line with Article 9 TFEU.

¹ OJ C , , p. .

- (3) The Union recognises and promotes the role of the social partners at its level and facilitates dialogue between them while respecting their autonomy, in line with Article 152 TFEU.
- (4) To promote a high-level concertation with EU social partners on the overall strategy set up by the Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March 2000, the Union has established a Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment, which is now recognised in Article 152 TFEU as an integral component of social dialogue at EU level.
- (5) The Union and the Member States are committed to cooperate within the framework of an integrated strategy designed to boost the EU's potential for growth and jobs over the decade 2010-2020, the Europe 2020 Strategy. It aims at increased coordination between national and European policies.
- (6) The Union has recognised the need to enhance the social partners' ownership and involvement in the Europe 2020 Strategy to enable the social partners to actively contribute to implementation of the strategy objectives.
- (7) Regulation 1175/2011 on the strengthening of the surveillance of budgetary positions and the surveillance and coordination of economic policies underlines that social partners shall be involved within the framework of the European Semester, on the main policy issues where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the TFEU and national legal and political arrangements.
- (8) In its conclusions of 28 June 2013, the European Council noted that the social dimension of the EMU should be strengthened and highlighted in this context the key role of the social partners and social dialogue. Accordingly, the Commission in its Communication (COM(2013)690) of 2 October 2013 on the social dimension of the EMU, addressed the issue of promoting social dialogue at national and EU levels announced a proposal to revise the 2003 Council Decision and referred to the Tripartite Social Summit as an opportunity to involve the social partners in the European Semester process.

- (9) Since it was set up by Council Decision in 2003, the Tripartite Social Summit has fulfilled its key role to enable high-level concertation. It has contributed positively to the development of social dialogue at EU level under the Lisbon Strategy over the decade 2000-2010 and under the current Europe 2020 Strategy.
- (10) In their joint Declaration on Social Partner Involvement in European Economic Governance of 23 October 2013, signed by ETUC on the workers' side and BUSINESSEUROPE, CEEP and UEAPME on the employers' side, the EU Social Partners called for a coherent process of consultation of the social partners in the context of the European Semester and confirmed their support for the Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment.
- (11) The tasks and the membership of the Tripartite Social Summit should be adapted in order to take into account the institutional changes brought in by the Treaty of Lisbon, notably the creation of the function of President of the European Council, as laid down in Article 15 TEU.
- (12) This Decision is without prejudice to the organisation and operation of the national systems of industrial relations and social dialogue.
- (13) The Treaty does not provide, for the adoption of this Decision, powers other than those under Article 352.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION

Article 1

Task

The task of the Tripartite Summit for Growth and Employment shall be to ensure, in compliance with the Treaty and with due regard for the powers of the institutions and bodies of the Union, that there is a continuous concertation between the **European Council**, the Council, the Commission and the social partners. It will enable the social partners at European level to contribute, in the context of their social dialogue, to the various components of the Union's strategy for growth and jobs. It will help facilitate synergies between actions of the **European Council**, the Council, the Commission and the social partners towards growth, a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion and a high level of education, training and protection of human health. For that purpose, it shall draw on the upstream work of and discussions between the Council, the Commission and the social partners in the different concertation forums on economic, social and employment matters.

Article 2

Membership

1. The Summit shall consist of the Presidents of the **European Council** and the Commission as well as the Council Presidency and the two subsequent presidencies and the social partners, represented at the highest level. The ministers from those three presidencies and the Commissioner responsible for employment and social affairs shall also be present. Depending on the agenda, other ministers from these three presidencies and other Commissioners may also be invited to take part.
2. The social partners' representatives shall be divided into two delegations of equal size comprising 10 workers' representatives and 10 employers' representatives, taking into account the need to ensure a balanced participation between men and women.

3. Each delegation shall consist of representatives of European cross-industry organisations, either representing general interests or more specific interests of supervisory and managerial staff and small and medium-sized businesses at European level.

Technical coordination shall be provided for the workers' delegation by the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and for the employers' delegation by the Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE). The ETUC and BUSINESSEUROPE shall ensure that the views expressed by the specific and sectoral organisations are fully taken into account in their contributions and shall, where appropriate, include representatives from some of those organisations in their delegations.

Article 3

Preparation

1. The agenda for the Summit shall be determined jointly by the Council, the Commission and the workers' and employers' cross-industry organisations taking part in the work of the Summit. To this end, preparatory meetings take place between the Council, the Commission, the ETUC and BUSINESSEUROPE.
2. The matters on the agenda shall be discussed by the Council meeting in its Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs configuration based as appropriate on a contribution of its preparatory bodies.
3. The Commission shall provide the Summit secretariat. In particular, the secretariat shall ensure that documents are distributed in adequate time. For the purposes of preparing and organising meetings, the Summit secretariat shall establish appropriate contacts with the ETUC and BUSINESSEUROPE, which shall be responsible for coordinating their respective delegations.

Article 4

Operation

1. The Summit shall meet at least twice a year. The meetings shall be held before the respective spring and autumn sessions of the European Council.
2. The Summit shall be chaired jointly by the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission, with the participation of the Presidency of the Council in office.
3. The meetings of the Summit shall be convened by the joint chairmen on their own initiative, in consultation with the social partners.
4. The President of the European Council shall report on the discussions and the outcomes of the Tripartite Social Summit to the European Council.

Article 5

Information

The joint chairmen shall draw up a summary of the Summit's discussions in order to inform the relevant Council configurations, the Parliament and the general public.

Article 6

Repeal

Decision 2003/174/EC is hereby repealed from the date of the entry into force of the new Decision.

Article 7

Entry into force

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President
