



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 4 February 2014

6108/14

Interinstitutional File:
2012/0335 (NLE)

SOC 81
ECOFIN 111
EMPL 13
EDUC 39

NOTE

from: Council General Secretariat
to: Delegations

No. Cion prop.: 16220/13 SOC 937 EMPL 18 ECOFIN 1019 EDUC 436

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. Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso, regarding the decision of the Committee of the Regions not to issue an opinion on the employment guidelines for 2014.



Committee of the Regions

The President

Brussels, 21.01.14 00106
 RLVS/AK/MCNC/TN/mlc - D 53/2014

Subject: Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States
 COM(2013) 803 final

Dear Minister,

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 2014.

In accordance with rule 64 of its rules of procedure, the CoR commission on economic and social policy (ECOS) decided during its meeting on 11 December 2013 not to issue an opinion but to reply in the form of the present letter.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the views expressed by the Committee of the Regions in its resolution on a better tool-box to implement the Europe 2020 Strategy: the integrated guidelines for the economic and employment policies of the Member States and the Union, adopted by the CoR on 10 June 2010.

In this resolution, the Committee of the Regions supports the renewed design of the broad economic and employment guidelines and the concept of integrating them into a coherent document aligned with the Europe 2020 Strategy. Given that the proposal for the Council Decision further extends this set of guidelines to the year 2014, the Committee of the Regions maintains its support as long as the Commission is willing to ensure that these guidelines, while addressed to the Member States, are implemented in partnership with regional and local authorities. Considering their competences and capacities in the fields covered by these guidelines, and according to the principle of subsidiarity, regional and local authorities are indeed key actors for the elaboration of National Reform Programmes, for their effective implementation and for the overall communication of the Strategy.

Mr Yiannis Vrotsis
 Greek presidency
 Greek Minister of Labour, Social Security and Welfare
 Council of the European Union
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SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE	
SGE14/00875	
REÇUE	23 JAN 2014
DEST. PRINC.	M. BOIXAREU
DEST. COP.	n. SZABO
The EU's Assembly of Regional and Local Representatives	

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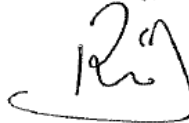
Furthermore, in a Resolution on the priorities of the Committee of the Regions for 2014, based on the legislative and work programme of the European Commission, which was adopted on 29 November 2013, the Committee of the Regions has identified a number of key political priorities. A strong focus is given to generating sustainable growth, ensuring social, economic and territorial cohesion, creating jobs and reinforcing citizens' trust in the European project. For a recovery to be successful, there needs to be greater emphasis on the coordination of economic and social policies to help address the competitiveness gap between the Member States and on the urgency of tackling youth unemployment and addressing the existing geographical inequalities between EU regions in order to prevent further loss of human capital.

To conclude, the Committee of the Regions is glad to see that the political priorities in the area of employment are well established at the level of the European Union. However, in the context of the ongoing financial, economic and social crisis, local and regional authorities must be more than ever involved in the reform process for Europe to successfully address the challenges ahead.

The CoR trusts that these recommendations will be duly considered and endorsed in your future work on this issue.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the ECOS commission secretariat on 02/282 21 94 or via email at ecos@cor.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,



Ramon Luis Valcárcel Siso

C.c.: Mr Uwe Corsepius, Secretary General, Council of the European Union