



**COUNCIL OF
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Public employment services

The Permanent Representatives Committee (Coreper) today approved a compromise agreed provisionally with the European Parliament on a decision on enhanced co-operation between public employment services (PES).

The aim of the decision is to formalise the current heads of PES (HoPES) informal advisory expert group and turn it into a fully-fledged network.

The creation of the PES network is a positive contribution to wider ongoing efforts to make existing structures more effective in tackling the unemployment crisis. The network constitutes another important effort towards the EU aim to restore well-functioning labour markets that provide for the necessary employment opportunities. Strengthening PES cooperation is all the more important at a time when unemployment has reached high levels in most member states.

According to the decision:

- the informal HoPES network is revamped to become a formal network, where the Employment Committee (EMCO) has an observer status; cooperation between the network and the EMCO is ensured, also at the level of their secretariats;
- the network will develop and implement Union-wide evidence-based benchlearning among PES to compare performance in certain areas of activity;
- a set of indicators to be used by the network are set in an annex to the decision;

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- for those member states who have more than one PES, the involvement of these is adequately ensured both in the board of the network and in the activities of the network.

The Parliament is expected to vote in its plenary session in April. Subsequently, the Council will formally adopt the decision without further discussion.
