



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

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

Subject: Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES) **(first reading)**
- Adoption of the legislative act (**LA + S**)
= Statements

Statement by the Council

The Council of the European Union:

1. WELCOMES the agreement reached by the co-legislators on the Commission's proposal for a Decision on enhanced cooperation between PES as an additional tool that can positively contribute to the wider ongoing efforts to make existing structures more effective in tackling unemployment;
2. RECALLS that Article 149 TFEU provides that the European Parliament and the Council may adopt incentive measures designed to encourage cooperation between Member States;

3. CONSIDERS that this legal basis does not allow for the draft Decision to impose an obligation of cooperation in the field of employment on the Member States;
4. RECOGNISES that the real added value of the Network resides in the participation of all Member States, thus enabling the development and implementation of benchmarking systems and mutual learning activities with a view to developing an appropriate benchlearning process.

The Member States of the European Union, in the light of the above, and in order to allow for the Network to function effectively and to provide real added value, hereby declare that they have all agreed to participate in the Network on a voluntary basis and that they will accordingly notify their participation to the Secretariat of the Network as set out in recital 3.

Statement by the Commission

The Commission

1. Welcomes the agreement reached by the co-legislators on enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services as a powerful mechanism for strengthening cooperation between Member State's employment services with a view to increasing the quality of services, the capacity and the efficiency in implementing employment policies;
2. Considers that in accordance with Article 145 TFEU this enhanced cooperation between PES is an integral part of the coordinated strategy for employment;
3. Considers that Article 149 TFEU provides the legal basis for the full participation of all the Member States in the network.