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NOTE

from: Presidency
to: Delegations

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Subject: European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2015 "EU Youth Guarantee:
first steps taken but implementation risk ahead"

Following the Social Questions Working Party meeting on 28 April 2015, Delegations will find attached the Presidency draft conclusions on the above European Court of Auditors' Special Report.

European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2015 ["EU Youth Guarantee: first steps taken but implementation risk ahead"]

Council Conclusions

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. WELCOMES the European Court of Auditors' Special Report No 3/2015 and the Commission's detailed replies to it;
2. CONSIDERS it useful that the Youth Guarantee (YG) and Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) funding instrument have been assessed at an early stage, thus making a contribution to improving their implementation;
3. APPRECIATES the timely and appropriate support by the European Commission to the Member States in setting up their YG Schemes, as assessed by the Court's audit, and in providing mutual learning opportunities;
4. AGREES with the Court that, in order for the YG measures to be successfully implemented, the necessary funds need to be allocated and the overall funding needs to be assessed;
5. RECALLS the difficulty of defining a good quality offer, bearing in mind the great variety of labour market situations in the European Union, and the need for a more pragmatic, outcome-based approach in the Member States;
6. STRESSES that much progress has been made in terms of monitoring of the implementation of the YG, in particular the establishment of the Indicator Framework for Monitoring of the YG within the framework of the Indicators Group of the Employment Committee, and within the multilateral surveillance of the Employment Committee, and LOOKS FORWARD TO further progress in this field;

7. UNDERSCORES the need to maintain flexibility in designing and managing the national youth employment policies on the basis of the needs and priorities of Member States, the YG Scheme representing one of the measures to combat youth unemployment at national level;
 8. RECALLS that it has recently concluded negotiations with the European Parliament in the context of the ordinary legislative procedure with a view to increase the pre-financing amount of the YEI under the European Social Fund, and HOPES that this will have beneficial effects for the quick mobilisation of resources to support the implementation the YG;
 9. NOTES that due consideration should be given to the recommendations made in the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors with a view to continuing to enhance the monitoring system, and aiming at a better overview of funds necessary to successfully implement the YG.
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