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**NOTE**

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To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
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Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States - Adoption

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**I. THE EMPLOYMENT GUIDELINES**

On 2 March 2015, the Commission submitted the package of Integrated Guidelines, including a proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States (Part II), based on article 148(2) TFEU. The other proposal is for a Council Recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union (Part I).

These guidelines were first adopted together as an integrated package in 2010, underpinning the Europe 2020 Strategy. It was then decided that the integrated guidelines should remain largely stable until 2014. The 2010 employment guidelines, reviewed every year since 2010, have been maintained until this year. The set of integrated guidelines proposed in 2015 aims to reflect the new approach to economic policy making, built on investment, structural reform and fiscal responsibility, set out in the 2015 Annual Growth Survey.

The European Council, at its meeting on 19-20 March 2015, considered the employment situation of the Union and adopted conclusions thereon. The Employment Committee (EMCO) transmitted its Opinion on the employment guidelines to the Council on 2 April 2015. The opinion of the Economic and Social Committee was adopted at its Plenary of 27-28 May 2015; that of the Committee of the Regions was adopted at its Plenary of 3-4 June 2015.

The Council (EPSCO) confirmed an agreement on a general approach on 18 June 2015, stressing that the general approach would need to be reconsidered once all the opinions required under Article 148(2) of the Treaty had been received.

The European Parliament's adopted its opinion at the plenary session of 6-9 July 2015.

On 22 July, the Social Questions Working Party examined the opinions of the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Having thoroughly analysed the proposed amendments, the Working Party considered the text of the general approach to be good and well-balanced and catering for the concerns of the institutions consulted. Some modifications were introduced to further clarify and strengthen certain messages. The text as finalised by the lawyer-linguists is set out in doc. 11360/15.

The UK delegation maintains a parliamentary scrutiny reservation. DE maintains a specific scrutiny reservation on recital 4.

## II. CONCLUSIONS

The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve and transmit the proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of Member States to the Council (EPSCO) for adoption at its session of 5 October 2015.

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