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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
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  
- Opinion of the Employment Committee

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Delegations will find attached the opinion of the Employment Committee on the above subject, as approved during its meeting on 16 February 2016.

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## EMCO Opinion

### on the Commission proposal for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides that Member States are to regard their economic and employment policies as a matter of common concern and coordinate them within the Council.

The employment guidelines were adopted on 5 October 2015, and are now reconfirmed for 2016.

In line with the provisions of Article 148 TFEU, the Employment Committee has examined the Commission's proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States, in which it is proposed that the guidelines as set out in the Annex to the Council Decision of 5 October 2015 are maintained for 2016.

The Employment Committee considers that the guidelines as set out in that Annex remain valid and therefore supports the Commission proposal to maintain the Employment Guidelines unchanged for 2016.

The Committee recalls that the employment guidelines should form the basis for any country-specific recommendations that the Council may address to the Member States under Article 148(4) TFEU, in parallel with the country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member States under Article 121(2) TFEU.