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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: **Social Summit (Gothenburg, 17 November 2017)**
- Information from the Swedish delegation and the Commission

Delegations will find attached the summary (1) of the Concluding report, including Further action (5) on the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth with a view to the EPSCO Council on 7 December 2017 (AOB item).

The full report is available under the following links:

<http://www.socialsummit17.se/concluding-report/>

<https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/concluding-report-social-summit-fair-jobs-and-growth>

Extract of the Concluding Report

(Point 1)

European Heads of State or Government met in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017 with EU Institutions, social partners, civil society, students and leading experts at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, organised by the Swedish Government and the European Commission.

Eight months on from the 60th anniversary celebrations of the Treaties of Rome, the Summit constituted an extraordinary opportunity for leaders and stakeholders to discuss topics that touch on the everyday lives of citizens. As such, it contributed to the debate on the future of the EU, which was initiated at the Bratislava Summit and shaped by the European Commission's White Paper and the five subsequent reflection papers, notably that on Europe's social dimension, presented earlier this year.

The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth focused on how to boost inclusive growth, create fair jobs and foster equal opportunities for all men and women, while acknowledging common challenges and the wealth of experiences around Europe. Discussions took place in a unique, open and interactive format which resulted in different perspectives being heard and different solutions debated, all taking account of common challenges and the specificities of national context and priorities. Live streams allowed citizens all over Europe to follow the discussions in real time.

The Summit was an occasion to reaffirm a joint responsibility to tackle the challenges our labour markets face at all levels. It stressed that employment and social progress are first and foremost created on the ground. The wealth of experiences shared will serve as inspiration for governments and stakeholders on how to design and implement policies in the future. The need to promote convergence of our economies and societies should be met by efforts at all levels, including by the social partners. While taking account of the diversity of social traditions across Europe, further steps should be taken to improve access to labour markets, ensure fair employment and working conditions and support transitions between jobs.

At the Summit, the European Pillar of Social Rights was proclaimed by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. This reflects the shared responsibility and the need for joint efforts by all levels of government, social partners and civil society to deliver a strong social Europe. The Pillar expresses principles and rights that are essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems in 21st century Europe. Ahead of the Summit, EU-level social partners agreed on a joint statement detailing how they can contribute to fair jobs and growth in the future.

In light of the European Council in December, and as part of the overall debate on the future of Europe, the discussions showed a lot of common ground on the need for Europe to be equipped with a strong and tangible social dimension. Going forward, both economic and social development will be essential.

The Summit recalled the need to put people first through joint efforts at all levels, and to further develop the social dimension of the Union based on a shared commitment and established competences. As a first next step, the following should be taken forward:

- *implementing the principles and rights set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights, notably through the European Semester of Policy Coordination and in the Member States' 2018 National Reform Programmes;*
- *facilitating a well-functioning social dialogue at all levels, including the 'new start for social dialogue' at EU level;*
- *progressing swiftly on pending social files at EU level, including on Posting of Workers, Social Security Coordination, Work–Life Balance and the European Accessibility Act, as well as being ready to swiftly examine future initiatives announced by the Commission in its Work Programme for 2018;*
- *following up on the priorities of the EU Action Plan 2018–2019 to tackle the gender pay gap; and*
- *delivering further on the new European Skills Agenda, with a particular focus in 2018 on implementing the Council Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways, intended for people with the most skills needs.*

Further action (point 5)

In December, the European Council will follow up the Gothenburg Summit, addressing the social dimension in the discussion on the future of the EU.

As co-host of the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, the European Commission will continue to play its part in the follow-up to the discussions. The European Semester of Policy Coordination should be the main framework for taking the discussions on the social dimension forward. The European Commission will relay its priorities as part of the European Semester, which starts with the Annual Growth Survey 2018.

The Summit witnessed the joint proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission. This sent a strong message of unity and political commitment. The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out 20 principles close to the everyday lives of European citizens and reaffirms the commitment to shared values. The focus now needs to shift to delivering on those principles and rights so as to ensure that they are a reality for all men and women. This is a joint task and requires a collaborative effort among EU Institutions and Member States, social partners as well as civil society.

The Summit was a first milestone in the debate on the future of Europe on the road to the meeting of EU Leaders in Sibiu on 9 May 2019. The co-hosts look forward to the continued efforts of the Estonian, Bulgarian and Austrian Presidencies to continue the work on the social dimension of Europe as part of the 18-month Programme of the Council of the European Union (July 2017 – December 2018), as well as to the further work of the European Parliament in this field ahead of the European elections in spring 2019.