



Council of the  
European Union

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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Council

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Subject: Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on access to social  
protection for workers and the self-employed  
- Statement by Bulgaria

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Delegations will find attached a statement by Bulgaria to be inserted in the minutes of the Council EPSCO.

**Meeting of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council,  
Brussels, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Agenda point: Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and self-employed**

*Political agreement*

**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**

The Republic of Bulgaria appreciates the efforts of the Austrian Presidency and supports the objectives of the Recommendation to improve and broaden the scope of social protection for all employed persons, in particular for those working in atypical forms of work, and the self-employed persons.

However, the Republic of Bulgaria considers that the recommendation should take better account of the national characteristics of the social security systems of the Member States and, in this regard, wishes to reaffirm its concerns about the extension of the scope of formal coverage of the self-employed persons, provided for in § 10 thereof, for occupational diseases and accident at work, even on a voluntary basis. This contradicts basic principles of the Bulgarian insurance model, where these risks are inherent only to the employees, which will lead to the impossibility for the country to fulfil this part of the recommendation in practice. The concerns are also related to the fact that, notwithstanding its non-binding nature, the Recommendation foresees the elaboration by each Member State, within 18 months of its adoption, of a plan for its implementation, which implementation will be monitored in the context of European Semester reporting.

For these reasons, in order not to block the adoption of the Recommendation, which implements basic principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Republic of Bulgaria expresses its support for it but wishes to attach this statement to the minutes of the meeting of the Council, which confirms the incompatibility of the extension of the scope of social protection of the self-employed persons for accidents at work and occupational disease with the national insurance model.

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