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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: Presidency conferences
Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the following conferences:

1. "Labour Mobility, a key element in ensuring balance of the labour market", 2-3 April 2019, Bucharest;
2. "Occupational safety and health in the new world of work. Experiences and practices in the Member States", 9 April 2019, Bucharest;
3. "Children's Participation in Decision-Making and Policy-Making at European Union level", 6-7 May 2019, Bucharest
4. High-Level International Conference on "The Role and Status of Women in Modern Society - Between Empowerment, Leadership and Gender Discrimination", 29 – 30 May 2019, Bucharest

with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 13 June 2019
(Any Other Business item).

**Conferences in the field of labour and social affairs organised during the mandate
of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union**

**1. "Labour Mobility, a key element in ensuring balance of the labour market",
2-3 April 2019, Bucharest**

Labour mobility and fair working conditions as factors that generate growth and competitiveness in the host and the sending Member State and in the internal market of the European Union represent priorities of the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The conference devoted particular attention to patterns of labour mobility with a view to developing geographic and occupational mobility of workers in equitable conditions, through the development and strengthening of existing EU instruments.

The discussions highlighted factors which determine the external mobility of the labour force, as well as the interest of mobile workers in returning to their home countries; the legal, administrative and practical barriers affecting mobility of workers in the European Union; cooperation between the Member States' administrations to reduce/eliminate undeclared work; preventing the risk of discrimination, abuses and breaches of labour legislation and also the essential issue of informing potential mobile workers of their rights.

2. "Occupational safety and health in the new world of work. Experiences and practices in the Member States", 9 April 2019, Bucharest

The conference aimed to continue the debates at European level on the main changes taking place in the labour market and how these can be optimised for the benefit of all those involved – workers, companies and society as a whole.

Two panel discussions were held.

The participants on the first panel exchanged good practices on the prevention and management of new and emerging musculoskeletal disorders, in the context of new forms of work and demographic changes such as the ageing workforce. It also facilitated the exchange of ideas on preventing workers' exposure to factors leading to the occurrence of musculoskeletal disorders in the context of new forms of work.

The second panel's discussions were focused on ways to involve all stakeholders in improving the health and safety of employees in the context of new, increasingly diverse forms of work, as reflected in new contractual arrangements and atypical forms of employment. All workers have a right to health and safety protection in the workplace and this must be ensured irrespective of the size of the employer, the type of job, the type of employment relationship or the Member State of origin.

3. "Children's Participation in Decision-Making and Policy-Making at European Union level", 6-7 May 2019, Bucharest

The purpose of the event was to involve children in the debates that define the future of Europe. In accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to be consulted and to actively participate in the decision-making processes that concern them.

Particular attention was paid to children's involvement in the decision-making processes and policy-making meant for them at the level of the European Union, by establishing general rules and specific structural mechanisms at EU level, that facilitate the genuine involvement of children in the debates and decision-making processes that will design the future of the European Union.

The Conference participants adopted the 'Bucharest EU Children's Declaration', a document drafted by the Romanian Children's Board, a body set up specifically for that purpose. The Declaration is a tool designed to mobilise the European institutions and the Member States to establish formal structures and mechanisms to promote children's right to participation in accordance with the provisions of the EU Recommendation on 'Investing in Children', the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**4. High-Level International Conference on "The Role and Status of Women in Modern Society - Between Empowerment, Leadership and Gender Discrimination",
29 – 30 May 2019, Bucharest**

Increasing women's economic independence by reducing the gender pay gap and encouraging female participation in the labour market is one of the priorities of the Romanian Presidency.

Promoting gender equality at European and global level is a matter of social fairness in terms of the way men and women are treated in our societies.

The event addressed the challenges faced by societies in this area, which may vary, but also include many common features that are generally recognised as social values: equality, non-discrimination, non-stereotypes, inclusion, diversity and respect for human rights.

The debates within the High-Level Conference also focused on ensuring more active participation on the part of women in the labour market and promoting their economic independence, women's rights at global level, stimulating women's entrepreneurship, and looking at gender equality as a prerequisite for social and economic growth in the EU.