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**NOTE**

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From: General Secretariat of the Council

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To: Delegations

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Subject: International developments in employment and social policies  
- Information from the Commission

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Delegations will find attached for information a note from the Commission on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 8 July 2019 (Any Other Business item).

## **International developments in employment and social policies**

### **Information from Commission**

#### **Centenary International Labour Conference (ILO), Geneva, June 2019**

The International Labour Conference adopted by consensus the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Centenary Declaration on the Future of Work, and by a very large majority the Convention accompanied by a Recommendation on Ending Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. The EU played an important constructive role throughout the preparatory process and during the final negotiations.

The EU intervened with 17 EU positions out of the 24 individual country cases discussed at the ILO Tripartite Committee on the Application of Standards, and with an EU position during the thematic debate on the implementation of Recommendation N°202 of 2012 on Social Protection Floors.

The active EU involvement benefited from effective upstream cooperation between the European Commission, the Council Presidency and the Member States and EU outreach to social partners and third countries. In addition to Romania, Ireland took the floor on behalf of the EU and its Member States for the Centenary Declaration; and France for the Convention and Recommendation on Violence and Harassment.

#### **Centenary Declaration on Future of Work**

The Declaration is a concise but comprehensive document that constitutes an up to date compass for ILO and its constituents (governments, employers and workers) for addressing the future of work in all its dimensions. It recognises also the ILO's important role in the multilateral system, including in promoting policy coherence in pursuit of its human-centred approach to the future of work.

It affirms also that safe and healthy working conditions are fundamental. In an accompanying Resolution, the International Labour Conference agreed to launch the process for including safe and healthy working conditions in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work.

## **Violence and Harassment Convention and Recommendation**

The Violence and Harassment Convention and Recommendation provide a coherent and comprehensive framework for protecting victims of violence and harassment in the world of work through an inclusive, integrated and gender-responsive approach.

The new Convention and Recommendation recognise the importance of a work culture based on mutual respect and human dignity in preventing violence and harassment, and set out an effective and complementary set of remedies and support services for addressing this unacceptable behaviour.

The ambitious result of discussions is fully in line with the key principles of non-discrimination and gender equality of the EU. Throughout the negotiation process, the EU and its Member States underlined the need for a binding international agreement that provides adequate protection and remedies in cases of violence and harassment in the world of work.

The European Commission intends to propose later this year a Council Decision authorising Member States to ratify the Convention, for aspects related to EU competence. This will facilitate the speedy ratification by EU Member States.

## **G7 Employment and Labour Ministerial Meeting, Paris, 6-7 June 2019**

The G7 Labour and Employment Ministers and the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, met in Paris on 6 and 7 June 2019 for the G7 Social. They took stock of the transformations in the world of work and committed to take concrete actions to reduce inequalities in a global world. It includes a Call for a Multilateral Dialogue and Coordination for the Reduction of Inequalities and Commitments to Promote Responsible Business Conduct in Global Supply Chains, in Favour of Universal Access to Social Protection in a Changing World of Work, to Empower Individuals for the Future of Work and to Ensure Gender Equality in the World of Work.

Besides the G7 Social Communiqué, the G7 Labour and Employment Ministers and the international Social Partners endorsed a G7 tripartite declaration. It is the first time that such a tripartite declaration is adopted in the G7.

## **G20 Employment and Labour Ministerial Meeting, Japan, 1 and 2 September 2019**

The three priorities chosen by Japan are demographic change, gender equality, and new forms of work. The cross-cutting factor is technological change. The Ministerial will take place after the G20 Summit.

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