



Brussels, 14 October 2019
(OR. en)

12951/19

SOC 664
EMPL 503

'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)/Council
No. prev. doc.:	15394/1/18 REV 1
No. Cion doc.:	7416/18
Subject:	Proposal for a COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed - Adoption

1. On 17 November 2017, the European Pillar of Social Rights (Social Pillar) was solemnly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Commission and the Council at the EU Social Summit in Gothenburg.

The Commission submitted the above proposal on 13 March 2018 as part of the implementation of principle 12 of the Social Pillar which states that "*regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship, workers, and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed have the right to adequate social protection*".

At the same time, this proposal will also contribute to the implementation of other principles of the Social Pillar such as the principles on "secure and adaptable employment", "unemployment benefits", "access to healthcare" and "old-age income and pensions".

2. The objective is to support all workers, in particular those in non-standard forms of employment, and the self-employed who, due to their labour market status or type of employment relationship, are not sufficiently covered by social protection schemes.
3. The proposed Recommendation aims at encouraging the Member States to:
 - close formal coverage gaps by allowing all workers and the self-employed to adhere to social protection schemes;
 - foster adequate effective coverage by taking measures allowing all workers and the self-employed to build up and take up social benefits as members of a scheme and facilitating the transfer of social protection benefits between schemes.

The proposal applies to the social protection branches for unemployment, sickness and healthcare, maternity and paternity, invalidity, old age and survivors' benefits and accidents at work and occupational diseases.

4. The Council (EPSCO) reached the political agreement on the proposal on 6 December 2018.¹
5. The adoption of the Council Recommendation is possible only after the lifting of all parliamentary reservations on the text; currently the CZ parliamentary reservation remains.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to advise the Council to:
 - (a) adopt, as an "A" item, the draft Council Decision as finalised by the Legal Linguists (doc. 12753/19), and
 - (b) have the Decision published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

¹ 15384/1/18 REV 1