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'A' ITEM NOTE

From:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	12951/19 + COR 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 proposal submitted by the Commission on 13 March 2018 refers to 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 also relates to 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 encourage the Member States 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. All reservations have been lifted.
6. The Permanent Representatives Committee recommends for the Council to:
 - (a) adopt, as an "A" item, the draft Council Recommendation as finalised by the Legal Linguists (doc. 12753/19), and
 - (b) have the Recommendation published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

¹ 15384/1/18 REV 1