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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Upcoming Commission Initiatives - <i>Information from the Commission</i>

Delegations will find attached information on the upcoming Commission initiatives, with a view to the EPSCO Council on 11 March 2024 (Any Other Business item).

Upcoming Commission Initiatives

Information from the Commission

On 14 June 2023, the European Parliament adopted its own-initiative (Art 225 TFEU) resolution on quality traineeships in the Union, asking the Commission to update and strengthen the 2014 Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships (2014/C 88/01) and turn it into a legally binding instrument. The Commission welcomed the European Parliament's resolution, and, in line with President von der Leyen's political commitment, is currently preparing a proposal for a reinforced Quality Framework for Traineeships in full respect of the proportionality, subsidiarity and better law-making principles, and as announced in the 2023 Commission Work Programme.

Furthermore, during the Val Duchesse Social Partners Summit, the European Commission, the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and European social partners signed a 'Tripartite Declaration for a Thriving European Social Dialogue'. As part of the commitment to reinforcing social dialogue, the Commission, in cooperation with social partners, will present an action plan to tackle labour and skills shortages in spring 2024. Having quality jobs and a workforce equipped with the right skills is essential for the EU's competitiveness. However, currently nearly two thirds (63%) of small and medium-sized businesses said in a recent Eurobarometer survey that labour and skills shortages hold them back in their general business activities.