



Council of the
European Union

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8814/24

SOC 270
EMPL 157
SAN 217
ANTIDISCRIM 56
GENDER 59
COMPET 421

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Council
Subject:	Possible change to the title of the Council configuration "Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs"

Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached information from the Presidency on the above subject, with a view to the meeting of the EPSCO Council on 7 May 2024 (Any Other Business item).

**Information regarding a possible change to the title of the Council configuration
“Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs”**

Taking into account the openness expressed by many ministers on the occasion of the informal meeting of the Ministers of Gender Equality on 26-27 February 2024 in Brussels, the Belgian Presidency underlines the importance of continuing the longstanding reflections about the need to strengthen the EU’s institutional mechanisms dedicated to equality policies, including within the Council. This includes increasing the visibility of equality and non-discrimination policies and enhancing high level political leadership at EU level. In this regard, the Presidency submits that the title of the existing Council configuration “Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO)” does not fully reflect its remit, as the subject area of “equality policies” is not reflected in its title, although these matters are routinely handled by the EPSCO Council.

According to Article 16(6) TEU and Article 236 TFEU, in order to amend the current list of Council configurations as set out in Decision 2009/878/EU of the Council (General Affairs) of 1 December 2009¹, the European Council would have to adopt a decision by reinforced qualified majority, pursuant to Articles 235(1) and 238(2) TFEU. Such a European Council Decision would need to be prepared by the General Affairs Council.

¹ Decision 2009/878/EU of the Council (General Affairs) of 1 December 2009 establishing the list of Council configurations in addition to those referred to in the second and third subparagraphs of Article 16(6) of the Treaty on European Union (OJ L 315, 2.12.2009, p. 46), as amended by European Council Decision 2010/594/EU of 16 September 2010 of 16 September 2010 amending the list of Council configurations (OJ L 263, 6.10.2010, p. 12); the resulting list of Council configurations is reflected in Annex I to the Council Rules of Procedure.