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'I' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

Subject: Assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations and the implementation of the 2019 country-specific recommendations: Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee
- Decision to use the written procedure for endorsement

1. Under the European Semester 2020, the Commission submitted to the Council on 20 May, for 28 Member States, a Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme 2020, and delivering a Council Opinion on the updated Stability or Convergence Programme.
2. These recommendations combine economic and employment recommendations, based on Articles 121(2) and 148(4) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), with Council opinions on stability and convergence programmes, based on Articles 5(2) and 9(2) of Regulation 1466/97, and, in certain cases, with recommendations on the preventive part of the macroeconomic imbalances procedure under Article 6(1) of Regulation 1176/2011.

3. The Employment and Social Protection Committees have drafted an Opinion on the assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and the implementation of the 2019 CSRs, based on the multilateral surveillance carried out during the year and accompanying the Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme 2020 .
4. The Opinion of the Council preparatory committees would normally have been endorsed by the Council (EPSCO), together with the approval of the contribution on employment and social policies aspects of the Council Recommendation on the National Reform Programme 2020.
5. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council (EPSCO) session foreseen on 11 June cannot take place. The current exceptional circumstances make it impossible to endorse the Opinion of the Employment and Social Protection Committees on the assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations (CSRs) and the implementation of the 2019 CSRs in the manner initially envisaged in document 12642/19.
6. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to decide, in accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 12(1) of the Council's Rules of Procedure and Article 1 of Council Decision 2020/702, that the Council uses the written procedure for the endorsement of the "Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee on the Assessment of the 2020 country-specific recommendations and the implementation of the 2019 country-specific recommendations" (set out in document 8518/20).