



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 16 July 2020
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ECOFIN 596
UEM 240
SOC 460
EMPL 350
COMPET 320
ENV 420
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'A' ITEM NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: Council Recommendations on the National Reform Programmes 2020 to each Member State, and the UK, delivering Council Opinions on the updated Stability or Convergence Programmes
= Adoption

1. Under the European Semester 2020, the Commission submitted to the Council on 20 May 2020, for 27 Member States, and the UK, 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. Bearing in mind that recommendations falling within the scope of Article 148(4) TFEU form an integral part of the country-specific recommendations and that their content is inextricably linked to that corresponding to the Stability and Growth pact, the procedure under Article 121(2) TFEU should apply to both parts of the recommendations.
4. Following the preparatory process at the Committee level, EPSCO on 15 June 2020 approved in a written procedure the contribution on employment and social policies aspects of these recommendations while ECOFIN on 19 June 2020 approved in a written procedure the contribution on economic/financial and MIP-related aspects.
5. The European Council will endorse the texts on 17–18 July 2020.
6. In accordance with Article 2-ab(2) of Regulation 1466/97, the text of the Council recommendation was accompanied with a note explaining the amendments to the Commission's recommendations introduced by the Council.
7. On 8 July 2020, COREPER invited the Council to adopt, as an 'A' item at a forthcoming meeting, with Poland abstaining, the country-specific recommendations, as set out in ST 8449/5/20 REV 5, and the accompanying explanatory note, as set out in ST 8410/20 + COR 1. COREPER took note of the request of Poland to add an statement to the minutes of the Council.

8. In view of the above, the Council is invited to:

- adopt the Country-specific recommendations, as set out in ST 8449/5/20 REV 5, and the accompanying explanatory note, as set out in ST 8410/20 + COR 1, with Poland abstaining;
- decide that the statements in Addendum 1 to this note be entered in the minutes of the meeting.
