



Brussels, 6 October 2020
(OR. en)

11365/2/20
REV 2

SOC 581

'I' ITEM NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)

Subject: Council Conclusions on Strengthening Minimum Income Protection to Combat Poverty and Social Exclusion in the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
- Decision to use the written procedure for the adoption

1. On 30 September 2020, the Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1) confirmed the agreement reached at the level of the Working Party on the Council conclusions set out in document ST 11084/20, took note of the statements hereto in document ST 11084/20 ADD1 REV2 and recommended to the Council
 - to approve the Conclusions attached to this note as an "A" item at one of its forthcoming sessions.
2. By 5 October 2020, it was still not sure that the session of the Foreign Affairs Council scheduled for 12 October 2020 would effectively not be canceled due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

3. The approval of these Council conclusions is a matter of urgency as under the COVID-19 pandemic many people lost their livelihoods and got dependent on public benefits. A strong political sign is therefore urgently required to show the commitment of the Council for providing these people with a minimum income protection. These Council conclusions need to be adopted before the informal ministerial videoconferences of the ministers of Labour and social affairs on 13 October 2020 as this meeting would be the opportunity to make this political statement widely known.

4. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked 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 2020/430, as extended, on the use of the written procedure for approving the Council conclusions as set out in document 11084/20.