



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 4 December 2019
(OR. en)

14738/19

SAN 501

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Council

Subject: **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council
session on 9 December 2019**
Outcomes of conferences organised by the Finnish Presidency
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find in the Annex a note from the Presidency on the outcomes of conferences organised by the Finnish Presidency. This note has been prepared to provide information under "Any Other Business" at the meeting of the Council (EPSCO) on 9 December 2019.

Outcomes of conferences organised by the Finnish Presidency

The priority theme for the Finnish Presidency in the social and health sector has been the Economy of Wellbeing, a holistic policy approach that emphasizes the mutually reinforcing relation of wellbeing and economic growth, as well as people's wellbeing as a value in itself. The Economy of Wellbeing was addressed in all the Presidency events organised by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health.

High-level Forum on the Silver Economy, 9-10 July

The Forum discussed the policies related to the Silver Economy¹, under the umbrella of the Economy of Wellbeing. The Forum was driven by a positive approach towards longevity and the opportunities provided by the resulting demographic change. Ageing and demographic change is a global phenomenon that should be linked with other contemporary megatrends: low birth rates, changing world of work, urbanisation and technological development.

This global event brought together political decision-makers and public officials, representatives of international organisations, experts and researchers, and significant business operators from Europe, Asia and North America. The event was the first global high-level policy and economy forum on ageing with a special focus on digitalisation and deployment of new technologies.

Further information and material is available on the Conference website:

<https://silvereconomyforum.eu/>

¹ One short definition is "the economy of the population over 50". It is closely linked to current trends in Europe's demographics, and the effects on older adults' quality of life and on the wider European economy.

High-level Conference on the Economy of Wellbeing, 18-19 September

The Conference brought together high-level key stakeholders to generate a cross-sectoral dialogue on the policy approach 'Economy of Wellbeing'. The discussions provided one basis for the drafting of the Council conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing that were adopted by the EPSCO Council on 24 October 2019.

Under the umbrella of the Economy of Wellbeing, notably the following aspects were addressed: inequality and providing equal opportunities, investing in people's capabilities, building an inclusive economy in the framework of sustainable development and the UN Agenda 2030 as well as political next steps for the new European Commission.

On a very abstract level, the main messages of the conference were:

- Better communication on the interlinkage of the Economy and Wellbeing, also for people not looking at the economy from the perspective of wellbeing.
- The need to establish continuity in the implementation of the policy approach Economy of Wellbeing in different functions of the EU in the future.
- The implementation of the Economy of Wellbeing requires discussions across siloes, with policy coordination and cross-sectoral governance.

Further information and material on the Conference is available on its website:

<https://eu2019.fi/en/events/2019-09-18/high-level-conference-on-the-economy-of-wellbeing>

EU National Drug Coordinators Meeting, 25-26 September

The meeting addressed the EU cooperation in the context of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND). During the meeting, themes such as negotiating tactics, the UN's language on drugs and collaboration with different operators were covered. The meeting developed tools to be used by the EU Horizontal Working Party on Drugs (HDG) for planning its work in the CND. Those tools are aimed both at enhancing the cooperation within the EU and making it easier for the EU to speak with one voice. They also contain a calendar of CND matters handled in the HDG and an informal guide on draft resolutions and other matters in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Joint Meeting of Health and Pharmaceutical Sector Chief Officers, 26-27 September

The meeting dealt with key challenges and solutions to sustainability and accountability in healthcare systems. During the meeting leading experts in medicine, dentistry, nursing and pharmaceuticals from EU Member States discussed integrated social and health care, digitalization and innovations. The meeting highlighted collaboration between professionals and sharing of best practices to build well-functioning healthcare and social services. Healthcare systems across Europe are facing similar challenges, and views were exchanged on how to organise healthcare and social services for the ageing population, and how to identify and harness innovation to ensure people's wellbeing.

This two-day meeting consisted of joint sessions for all Chief Officers and Directors of Pharmaceutical Policy and separate sessions for each sector. The meeting was the first of its kind in such an extended composition.
