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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Delegations

Subject: AOB for the meeting of the EPSCO Council of 10 March 2025:
Presidency events
- Information from the Presidency

Delegations will find attached information on the events organised by the Presidency, with a view to the EPSCO Council of 10 March 2025 (Any Other Business item).

INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS ORGANISED BY
THE POLISH PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. Ministerial Conference on the future of work in a digital Europe, 20-21 February 2025, Gdańsk

The Polish Presidency, as a part of its programme, organised a ministerial conference on the Presidency's priorities in the area of employment and social policy.

Ministers' round table: The impact of digital transformation and artificial intelligence on the labour market and working conditions

The first item on the agenda was a ministerial debate focused on the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on the labour market. The aim was to discuss the opportunities and risks associated with the use of AI. During the debate it was underlined that the digital transformation presents both significant opportunities and possible challenges. The discussion also focused on how we can address these challenges.

The Future of the Social Economy and Support for People with Disabilities

On the second day of the conference, participants had the opportunity to engage in two thematic workshops. The first was dedicated to **the future of the social economy in Europe**. Panellists from various EU countries shared their experiences with social entrepreneurship models and their role in building a sustainable labour market.

The second workshop focused on **the role of the media in raising public awareness about the potential of people with disabilities in the labour market**. The discussion addressed employment barriers and strategies for promoting the professional integration of this group.

Challenges of the silver transformation: how do we in the European Union succeed in using the potential of older people in the labour market?

The central event on the second day of the conference was a ministerial panel dedicated to the challenges of the silver transformation and the potential of older individuals in the labour market. The topic introduction was provided by Eurofound, and the panel included representatives of Member States and EU institutions. The participants emphasised the significant potential of older persons in the labour market and discussed the key factors for the voluntary extension of their economic activity.

2. Informal meeting of the Social Protection Committee, 4-5 March 2025, Warsaw

The informal meeting of the Social Protection Committee (SPC) was devoted to a discussion on critical aspects of the EU's and its Member States' effective response to the challenges of the silver transformation, which the Polish Presidency has chosen as one of its social priorities. Other themes included the state of play on the implementation of the European Child Guarantee, dimensions of poverty from the OECD's perspective and a presentation by Eurofound on social convergence in Europe. In addition, the SPC started discussions on its 2025 Annual Report.

Integration of policies supporting older persons economic activity

In order to gain a deeper insight into the topic, the discussion was preceded by presentations by Eurofound, the Polish Social Insurance Institution (ZUS) and the European Commission. During the debate, SPC delegates focused on the main challenges related to the economic participation of older persons in the labour market and the targeted interventions addressing those challenges. An important aspect of the deliberations was the role of social dialogue and collective bargaining in enhancing the rights of and support for older workers, particularly in tackling age discrimination and promoting an inclusive work environment.

European Child Guarantee and poverty targets

The number of children at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE) increased by over half a million across the EU between 2019 and 2023. In light of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) Action Plan headline target for 2030 (lifting at least 5 million children out of poverty or social exclusion), this raises concerns and calls for increased engagement from the EU and Member States in implementing the European Child Guarantee and providing a comprehensive EU anti-poverty strategy.

Upward Social Convergence in Europe

The analysis of convergence trends reveals a complex picture: progress in areas like the labour market and equal opportunities, alongside challenges such as digital skills gaps, income inequality, and unmet medical needs. Addressing these disparities is key to achieving the European Pillar of Social Rights' vision of a socially inclusive and equitable Europe where no one is left behind.
