

**EPSCO Council: extracts from the press conference by Sotiroula CHARALAMBOUS, Minister for Labour and Social Insurance of Cyprus and László ANDOR, Member of the EC in charge of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion**

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On 4 october, Sotiroulla Charalambous, Cyprus Minister for Social Affairs and Labour, and President-in-office of the Council and László Andor, Member of the EC in charge of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, announced that they reach a new directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from electromagnetic fields. The Council also agreed on a political agreement on the position to be taken by the EU within the respective association bodies established between the EU and Albania, Montenegro, San Marino and Turkey as regards the coordination of social security systems. Regarding the Employment Package proposed by the Commission, László Andor called the Member States to 'do all they can to ensure rapid implementation of the measures outlined in the Package'.



Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	General view of the meeting	00:00:04
00:00:09	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:04
00:00:13	SOUNDBITE (in Greek) Sotiroulla Charalambous, Cyprus Minister for Social Affairs and Labour, saying that: Today's EPSCO Council, I am in a very nice position to say that we agreed on a general approach on a proposal for a directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents from electro magnetic fields. You know that this is one of the vey complex issues which has been discussed from a very long time now. I also want to point out that it was possible today to arrive to an agreement thanks to the extensive work which was carried out by the previous presidency, especially Polish and Danish presidencies.	00:00:49

00:01:02	SOUNDBITE (in English) László Andor, Member of the EC in charge of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion: I am relying on each of the Ministers present today to do all they can to ensure rapid implementation of the measures outlined in the Employment Package and to decide swiftly on the Commission's proposals in the package. This is essential to deliver inclusive growth, to prevent macroeconomic imbalances and to reduce the increasing divergence between Member States.	00:00:27
00:01:29	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
00:01:34	SOUNDBITE (in English) László Andor: With the current social employment crisis and long term demographic challenges, the EU can not afford to reduce its budget for capital human investments. Given the current state of play in the MFF negotiations, there is a very real risk that EU investment in people could be significantly reduced. I therefore urged the Employment and Social Policy Ministers to ensure consistency in their respective national positions in negotiations on the MFF given the apparent lack of understanding among the negotiators in the General Affairs Council about the fundamental contribution of the ESF to a job-rich recovery and human capital investment.	00:00:45
00:02:19	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
00:02:24	End	00:00:00