



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 26 May 2009

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ADDENDUM TO THE NOTE

from : Presidency
to : Delegations

Subject : **Employment Committee's contribution to the informal Employment Summit
- Letter from the Chair of the Employment Committee**

Delegations will find attached a letter from the Chair of the Employment Committee to the President of the Council (EPSCO).



The Employment Committee

The Chairman

Brussels, 20 May 2009

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to the Employment Committee to share its views on the Employment Summit held in Prague. In view of the forthcoming EPSCO Council, I enclose the Committee's contribution to the Summit.

The Committee acknowledges the important work carried by the Commission, Member States and social partners throughout the preparatory workshops to agree on the most appropriate ways to thrive for recovery.

The Employment Committee also takes note of the priority areas and points for action identified by the Employment Summit as an input to the EPSCO Council. The Employment Committee calls now on the EPSCO Council to build on the consensus reached so as ensure an effective delivery of these policy initiatives. May I also add that the Committee stands ready to follow-up the implementation of such actions and contribute to the monitoring of its impact on labour markets.

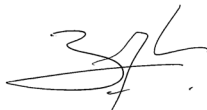
The Committee underscores the importance of the Community resources in addressing the crisis and underlines that further ways to improve accessibility to and effectiveness of Community resources could be explored.

To conclude, let me emphasise that efforts made now should place Europe in a better position to maximise everybody's potential and build the conditions required to face future challenges. This implies that:

- Coordination between economic, employment and social policies is fully ensured to reach comprehensive and effective exit solutions to the crisis. Coordination among Member States is also key to avoid negative spill-over's, unfair competition and protectionism.
- Crisis management needs to be framed by long-term objectives and consistent with the sustainability of public finances. A renewed commitment to a well-grounded medium- and long-term framework for employment policies beyond 2010 can facilitate an European path for recovery.
- Sustainable economic growth with ever-improving living and working conditions, based on full employment, good quality jobs, equal opportunities, social protection for all and social inclusion lies at the heart of all recovery strategies.

I profit also from the occasion to share with you an analysis carried by the Employment Committee on short-time working arrangements (see attached), one of the most used and debated responses to the crisis. You might find it interesting for the current debates on the crisis.

Yours faithfully,



Bruno Coquet
Chairman of the Employment Committee

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