



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 22 February 2010**

**6686/10**

**SOC 139  
ECOFIN 114**

**COVER NOTE**

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from : Council General Secretariat

to : Delegations

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Subject : **Work Programme of the Employment Committee 2010**

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Delegations will find annexed the Work Programme of the Employment Committee for 2010, as adopted in accordance with the Committee's rules of procedure.



# The Employment Committee

## EMCO Work Programme 2010

### INTRODUCTION

The main obligations of the Committee relate to the preparation of the EPSCO Council proceedings with regard to the European Employment Strategy and its instruments – in particular, the Employment Guidelines, the Joint Employment Report and the recommendations on the implementation of national employment policies. The Committee also considers other requests from the Council and other policy issues responding to initiatives from the Commission.

### Working methods

A priority of the Committee is to execute its advisory role to EPSCO through the preparation of opinions – as foreseen by the Council decision establishing the Committee – and discussions papers in line with Presidency priorities. The agenda of EMCO will be articulated with the work of the EPSCO Council and be primarily in line with the Council Presidencies and the COM work programmes. *[Note: All references to the COM Work Programme for 2010 are provisional]*

In order to carry its tasks, EMCO will be supported by its sub-groups: the Ad-Hoc Group<sup>1</sup> will continue to provide analytical work to underpin EMCO policy debates; the Indicators Group<sup>2</sup> will continue to support EMCO in the quantitative description and analysis of the policy issues. In case needed, small temporary working groups may also be constituted.

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<sup>1</sup> See work programme of the EMCO Ad Hoc Group for 2010

<sup>2</sup> See work programme of the EMCO Indicators Group for 2010

When requested by the EPSCO Council, EMCO will ensure coordinated input with the Social Protection Committee (SPC). It will collaborate with the Economic Policy Committee (EPC) in the context of the Lisbon Strategy. Cooperation between EMCO and SPC and EPC Committees could be strengthened through setting up joint projects [*Note: subject to the joint interest and agreement*], supported by joint work between DG EMPL and DG ECFIN. EMCO will also co-operate with social partners and exchange views with representatives of the EFTA countries.

EMCO will seek to establish closer cooperation with the Education groups and committees and take the opportunity of cooperating closer with the Network of Heads of Public Employment Services. Contribution from the Mutual Learning Programme and the European Employment Observatory managed by the Commission to the Committee's debate will also be reinforced.

### **EMCO MAIN PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2010**

In light of future employment challenges facing the European Union, it is proposed that the Committee focuses particularly its activities in 2010 around the following issues:

#### ***A. The Lisbon Strategy 2009/10 and the European Employment Strategy within EU 2020***

##### ***a. Multilateral surveillance***

EMCO will concentrate part of its efforts on monitoring progress in the delivery of structural reforms and the implementation of the European Employment Strategy. Having seen that the 2010 is a final year of the 2008-2010 OMC cycle, and awaiting the Commission proposals for the future EU 2020 strategy, contrary to the previous years, in 2010 there is no Key Messages Paper intended for the Spring European Council.

The Employment Committee will however prepare the finalisation of the **Joint Employment Report** to be transmitted to the March EPSCO Council.

The Committee will also continue to examine the Member States' performance through the Cambridge Review [*Note: format to be decided under EU 2020*]. In order to step up the exchange of best practices in the context of the **multilateral surveillance**, the Committee will hold several multilateral reviews throughout the year. The multilateral surveillance exercise will be composed of four elements:

- A review on "youth" in the first quarter of 2010 by the Ad-Hoc group;
- A review on "quality of work" in the second quarter of 2010 by the Ad-Hoc group;
- Adoption of the new EES compendium of indicators to be used for the monitoring and analysis of progress regarding the post-2010 strategy priorities, in the second quarter of 2010 by EMCO ;
- The Cambridge Review in autumn 2010.

The Ad-Hoc Group will present its conclusions on the two thematic reviews to EMCO before the Cambridge Review. These conclusions will be an important input to the Cambridge Review Report to be transmitted to the December EPSCO Council.

*b. European Employment Strategy within EU 2020*

Beyond the regular monitoring of the European Employment Strategy, EMCO will give particular attention to the definition of the new European Employment Strategy within the EU 2020 strategy. Fulfilling its Treaty obligations, the Committee will provide an opinion to the EPSCO Council on the future Employment Guidelines proposed by the Commission. [*Note: The calendar of EMCO activities related to the adoption of the new employment guidelines, as presented in annex I, should be considered tentative*].

Following the Spanish Presidency priorities and the COM work programme, the Committee will also hold a number of policy debates on the role of some specific policies in post-2010 such as corporate social responsibility, self-employment and entrepreneurship or the international dimension of the EES. During summer 2010, the Committee will discuss the outline of COM communication on flexicurity and explore new possibilities of building further a flexicurity monitoring methodology on the basis of the DG EMPL work with the Joint Research Centre and the Tilburg University.

*c. Financial Instruments*

The reflections on the EU budget and the new financial perspectives will start in 2010. The budgetary review is expected to have a considerable impact on the way Structural Funds support the Lisbon Strategy and the European Employment Strategy in the next decade. For this reason, the Committee will follow the wider debate and be informed of all major COM initiatives in this area in preparation of EMCO's views on the budgetary reform to take place in 2011.

Finally, EMCO will be consulted on the COM political priorities for PROGRESS 2011.

*B. Recovery measures and exit strategies*

EMCO will continue to follow the employment effects of the crisis based on a monthly/quarterly reports from the Commission on the situation of labour markets in the EU. Special attention will be devoted to monitoring and evaluation of relevant policy measures. The Committee will contribute to building up an assessment of crisis related measures and discuss the Commission background note aimed at nourishing the June EPSCO Council discussions on crisis policy responses. It will make full use of the Mutual Learning Programme activities and also seek to carry the work in cooperation with SPC/EPC Committees.

Also Ad Hoc thematic reviews (on "youth" and "quality of work") would have a greater focus on the effects of crisis. Finally, a mandate will also be given to the Ad-Hoc Group to prepare an EMCO's contribution on employment and the crisis to the Informal EPSCO in July (tbc).

C. New skills for new jobs (NSNJ)

In line with the foreseen COM work programme 2010 and with the political priorities of the Spanish Presidency, EMCO will hold several policy debates around the New Skills for New Jobs initiative and prepare an opinion to the June EPSCO Council.

A number of contributions will support the debate such as the Report of the NSNJ expert group and the CEDEFOP supply-demand forecasts. COM communication is foreseen for April/May 2010.

On the request from Spanish Presidency, EMCO will also give a mandate to the Ad-Hoc Group to produce a contribution to the Council and to the Presidency Conference on NSNJ to be organised in Barcelona on 8/9 April 2010. This contribution would present the current state-of-play of different measures put in place in the Member States in regards to skills, explore some venues on what activities could be carried further in this area, and discuss the role of ESF. It will also give an insight into the possible role of NSNJ in EU 2020.

In the second semester, the Committee will discuss the skills aspects of migration (tbc). As announced in the Political Guidelines for the next Commission of President Barroso, the Commission will make further steps to develop and consolidate a true common immigration policy. The Committee will therefore pursue a policy discussion on the employment aspects of such policy to be presented in a COM communication during the third quarter of 2010. The joint COM/IOM assessment of countries' migration policies will also be discussed at the same occasion.

Finally, the Committee will discuss the strategic repositioning of EURES as a potential tool to enhance labour matching at EU level and examine the opportunities to cooperate closer with HoPES.

#### *D. Employment and climate change*

In accordance to the political priorities of the Belgian Presidency, EMCO will pursue its work on the implications of climate change on employment by preparing an opinion to the December EPSCO Council. The foreseen COM communication on employment and climate change (to be adopted after the summer break), the COM Green Paper on climate change and social cohesion and the Presidency studies should provide policy and analytical grounds for EMCO's work.

Furthermore, a joint Indicators/Ad-Hoc Working Group will be given a mandate (see EMCO/07/210110/EN) to explore further questions and to pursue further work on policy and measurement issues concerning the employment dimension of tackling climate change. The aim is to improve the evaluation and monitoring of the labour market impact of climate policies. The report of Working Group will be discussed by EMCO at the end of 2010 for possible transmission to the December EPSCO Council.

#### *E. Make transitions pay*

Later in the year, the Committee will focus on labour market segmentation, quality of transitions and training of workers. To this end, Belgian Presidency studies and the COM analytical work will nurture the debate and an EMCO opinion on "make transitions pay" will be transmitted to the October EPSCO Council (tbc).

#### *F. Quality of work*

In line with the priorities of the Spanish and Belgian Presidencies, the Committee will discuss the evolution of quality of work in Europe and its interlinks with new challenges such as climate change. The Spanish Presidency will prepare studies and policy papers to foster the debate on job quality, entrepreneurship and self-employment during the informal EMCO in Oviedo. The COM will also present a policy paper reviewing the concept of quality of work in light of the new European Employment Strategy post-2010.

## ANNEX I

### Main EMCO priorities for 2010

- **EU2020**
- **Recovery measures and exit strategies (ALMPs, STWA, UB, youth)**
- **Presidency priorities: NSNJ, employment and climate change, make transitions pay, quality of work**

### EMCO Meetings 2010 – Provisional Agenda

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2010

##### 21 January

###### *Drafting/debate*

- Input to 2010 Spring European Council:
  - Joint Employment Report (JER): first discussion
  - EU2020: follow up to COM consultation paper

###### *Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Mutual Learning Programme
- Work Programme 2010: finalisation
- Mandate to the Working Group on climate change: finalisation
- Election of Vice-Chair /Chair of Indicators Group

**28/29 January [Informal EPSCO]**

**11 February [European Council]**

##### 17 February

- Meeting with social partners

###### *Drafting/debate*

- (cont.) Input to 2010 Spring European Council:
  - Joint Employment Report (JER): finalisation
  - (poss.) EU2020: EMCO opinion, follow up to February Council
- EU2020: EU budget review – Structural Funds support to the EES post-2010

###### *Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- NSNJ: discussion and endorsement of Ad-Hoc Group contribution to the ES Presidency conference (8/9 April, Barcelona)

**8/9 March [EPSCO]**



**18/19 March (informal Oviedo)**

*[Agenda tbc with Spanish Presidency]*

*Drafting/debate*

- (poss.) Follow-up to March EPSCO Council: EU2020 EMCO opinion
- EU2020: policy debates
  - Youth and female employment
  - Self-employment and entrepreneurship
  - (poss.) International dimension

*Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Free movement and rights of workers: debriefing by ES Presidency
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR): debriefing by ES Presidency

**25/26 March [European Council]**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010****15 April***Drafting/debate*

- Follow-up to 2010 Spring European Council: EU2020
- NSNJ: EMCO opinion; COM communication on NSNJ
- Recovery measures and exit strategies: monitoring and assessment of crisis measures
- Mobility and career of European researchers (tbc)

*Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)

**19 May***Drafting/debate*

- (cont.) Follow-up to 2010 Spring European Council: EU2020
- NSNJ: finalisation of EMCO opinion
- Recovery measures and exit strategies: monitoring and assessment of crisis measures
- Active inclusion: EMCO contribution to COM SWD (Focus on inclusive labour markets and in-work poverty)
- Mobility and career of European researchers (tbc)

*Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)

**7/8 June [EPSCO]**

**17/18 June [European Council]**

### **30 June**

#### *Drafting/debate*

- EU2020 (monitoring and assessment): endorsement of Indicators Group report on indicators; policy debate on role of employment policy implementers; (poss.) follow up to 2010 June European Council
- EU2020: flexicurity – new methodological developments regarding indicators: policy debate
- Employment and climate change: policy debate
- NSNJ – cost-sharing of training: policy debate; follow up to June Council

#### *Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Exit strategies: endorsement of Ad-Hoc Group discussion paper to informal July EPSCO Council (tbc)
- PROGRESS: evaluation of past years and discussion on strategic priorities 2011

**8/9 July [Informal EPSCO]**

### **3th Quarter 2010**

### **16 September**

- Meeting with social partners

#### *Drafting/debate*

- Make transitions pay: EMCO opinion
- Active inclusion: policy debate

#### *Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Employment and enlargement: overview of employment situation of candidate countries (tbc)
- Multilateral surveillance – Cambridge Review format: first discussion

### **4th Quarter 2010**

### **5/6 October (informal)**

*[Agenda tbc with Belgian Presidency]*

#### *Drafting/debate*

- Employment and climate change: EMCO opinion
- Make transitions pay: finalisation of EMCO opinion
- Quality of work: policy debate
- Skills and the role of migration: policy debate

*Info/other*

- (poss.) Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Multilateral surveillance - Cambridge Review format: finalisation; endorsement of Ad-Hoc reports from thematic reviews
- Work Programme 2011: first discussion

**9/10 November**

- Multilateral surveillance: Cambridge Review

**23 November**

*Drafting/debate*

- Employment and climate change: finalisation of opinion; endorsement of Working Group report
- Budgetary review: policy debate
- International dimension of EES: policy debate (tbc)

*Info/other*

- Labour market situation in the EU: overview (regular information by DG EMPL)
- Multilateral surveillance: finalisation of 2010 Cambridge Review report
- Work Programme 2011: finalisation