



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 21 May 2010

**Interinstitutional File:
2010/0115 (NLE)**

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| to: | Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I) / COUNCIL (EPSCO) |
| No Cion prop.: | 9233/10 CO EUR-PREP 19 POLGEN 66 AG 14 ECOFIN 234 UEM 162 SOC 309 COMPET 127 RECH 153 ENER 130 TRANS 117 MI 125 IND 59 EDUC 87 ENV 252 AGRI 153 |
| Subject: | Proposal for a Council Decision on Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States: Part II of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines: Opinion of the Employment Committee - 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

Brussels, 20 May 2010

Subject: Employment Guidelines and contribution to EPSCO on Europe 2020

Dear Sir,

In accordance with Article 148 of the Treaty, the Employment Committee has reached an agreement on the enclosed opinion on the Commission proposal for a Council Decision on the Guidelines for the Employment Policies of the Member States contained in COM (2010) 193 final, including text amendments provided in annex to the opinion. In fulfilling this task, the Committee has consulted the social partners at European level.

Following the suggestion of the Spanish Presidency, the Committee has not discussed the recitals preceding the employment guidelines. Member States' delegations were informed they could make their comments to the Commission proposal on the recitals at the upcoming meetings of the Social Questions Working Group.

Let me also inform you that the UK delegation raised a reservation regarding the appropriateness of the legal basis of Guidelines 9 and 10.

Furthermore, the Committee retained appropriate not to discuss text related to EU headline targets on improving education levels and promoting social inclusion (cf. boxes under Guidelines 9 and 10 of the Commission proposal), before a political decision is taken by the European Council on these issues.

I also enclose a contribution from the Employment Committee on Europe 2020 addressing some aspects of the new strategy evoked by Heads of State at the last Spring European Council and possible steps ahead.

The Committee hopes that both inputs provide a good basis for the EPSCO Council policy debate on Europe 2020 in view of the June European Council.

Yours faithfully,



Bruno Coquet
Chairman of the Employment Committee

Minister Corbacho Chaves
President of the EPSCO Council
Council of the EU
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