



Brussels, 1 December 2010
PRE 067/10 (Presse)

The 3053rd session of the Council of the European Union - **EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS** - will take place on 6 (09.00) and 7 (10.00) December 2010, in the Justus Lipsius Building, Brussels, under the presidency of Ms Joëlle **MILQUET**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities, Ms Laurette **ONKELINX**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Social Affairs and Public Health, and Mr Michel **DAERDEN**, Minister for Pensions.

The whole Council session will be public (except of any other business points and lunch discussions) and may be followed, together with the press conferences, by videostreaming at <http://video.consilium.europa.eu/>.

For reasons of security with regard to the EU-Russia Summit being held on the same day, it is necessary for media representatives attending the EPSCO Council meeting who are not in possession of the EU inter-institutional press card to request accreditation for access to the building.

Application deadline: 1 December 2010, 17.00

Please read the accreditation instructions carefully and remember to bring all the necessary documents for collection of your accreditation badge.

(see www.european-council.europa.eu/summitswiththirdcountries/media-accreditation)

The following points will be discussed at this session:

MEETING ON MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2010 (9.00)

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY

➤ **Maternity leave**

Policy debate on a draft directive based on a presidency progress report and questionnaire

➤ **Equal treatment irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation**

Progress report on a draft directive

➤ **European Year for Active Ageing 2012**

General approach on a draft decision

➤ **Employment policies within the Europe 2020 strategy and the European semester**

Exchange of views on:

(a) **Flagship initiative "An agenda for new skills and jobs"**

Presentation by a Commission communication

Presentation of Presidency conclusions, also on the flagship "Youth on the move"

(b) **Employment policy for a competitive low-carbon economy**

Approval of an Employment Committee opinion

Adoption of Council conclusions

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(c) **Impact of an ageing workforce and population on employment policies**

Adoption of Council conclusions

(d) **European semester**

(i) Joint Assessment Framework and the Employment Performance Monitor

Approval of the joint opinion of EMCO and SPC

(ii) "Light" examination by country on the basis of draft national reform programmes

Approval of the opinion of the EMCO

➤ **Equality between women and men**

(a) Implementation of the Commission's Strategy for equality between women and men

Adoption of Council conclusions

(b) Strengthening the commitment and stepping up action to close the gender pay gap

Adoption of Council conclusions

➤ **Social protection and social inclusion**

(a) Social dimension in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy

Adoption of Council conclusions

(b) Social impact of the economic crisis and of policy responses

Presentation of joint assessment by the SPC and the Commission

➤ **The future of pensions systems**

Policy debate

(a) Second joint report by the SPC and the EPC

Presentation

(b) Adequate, safe and sustainable pensions for all European citizens

Adoption of Council conclusions

➤ **The European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**

Adoption of the declaration by the Council

➤ **Social services of general interest**

(a) Biennial report on social services of general interest

Presentation by the Commission

(b) A voluntary European Quality Framework for Social Services

Presentation of the Social Protection Committee document

(c) Social Services of General Interest: at the heart of the European Social Model

Adoption of Council conclusions

MEETING ON TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2010 (10.00)

HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

- **Food information to consumers**
Political agreement on a draft regulation
- **Follow-up to Council conclusions on "Lessons to be learned from the A/H1N1 pandemic"**
Exchange of views on a mechanism for joint procurement of vaccines
- **Healthcare systems in Europe**
Exchange of views on a joint report by the Commission and the EPC
- **Investing in Europe's health workforce of tomorrow**
Adoption of Council conclusions
- **Innovation and Solidarity in Pharmaceuticals**
Adoption of Council conclusions
- **Innovative approaches for chronic diseases in public health and healthcare systems**
Adoption of Council conclusions

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Press conference: *The presidency will hold a press conferences at the end of each days session*

Video coverage will be available for preview and download in broadcast quality (MPEG4):

<http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu>
