



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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ADDENDUM TO THE NOTE

from: Presidency

to: Delegations

Subject: **SPC contribution to the informal Employment Summit (7 May 2009)**
- Letter from the Chair of the Social Protection Committee

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

Dear Sir,

In view of the forthcoming EPSCO Council, I enclose, on behalf of the Social Protection Committee, the following contribution for the debate on the '*preparation of the June European Council*'.

The Social Protection Committee prepared the enclosed contribution to the Employment Summit, recalling its main views on the issues addressed at the preparatory workshops, which remains valid for the upcoming discussions in Council.

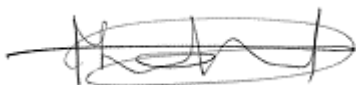
In the light of the deliberations of this Summit, the Committee would like to draw the attention of the EPSCO Council in particular to the following aspects:

- National social protection systems are a distinctive feature and the main strength of the European social model. Social protection and social inclusion strategies should be essential parts of an adequate response to the crisis.
- Education and training for all is a major policy tool to prevent and combat poverty and disadvantage and, in periods of rapid transitions between jobs and sectors due to structural changes in the economy, to support activation and promote re-integration in the labour market especially of the most vulnerable.
- It is essential that the integrated implementation of active inclusion strategies based on adequate social protection and tailored support services aiming at the most vulnerable, in particular those mostly affected by the crisis, promote, in addition to strengthened employment services, the close coordination among all relevant actors. Also in the context of active inclusion, the modernisation and effective development of quality services play a crucial role to support people to participate in society and combat poverty and exclusion.

- Temporary measures meant to address the direct impact of the crisis on the labour markets, such as reductions in the non-wage labour costs represented by social security contributions, need to be consistent with the long-term sustainability and adequacy of social protection systems.
- The Open Method of Coordination on social protection and social inclusion provides a consolidated experience that is particularly relevant for the mutual learning, exchanges of good practices and systematic monitoring of the effectiveness and efficiency of short-term measures that are needed to ensure coordinated and adequate responses to the crisis.

In relation to this debate, the SPC will transmit shortly the social monitoring report providing an updated analysis of the social impact of the economic crisis, increasingly visible in the Member States, and an overview of the national measures taken to address it in the context of the recovery efforts. The SPC will continue, jointly with the Commission, to fulfil the Council mandate to monitor the social consequences of the downturn and analyse national policy responses taken to respond to the crisis.

Yours faithfully,



Aurelio Fernandez

Chairman of the Social Protection Committee

Minister Petr Simerka

President of the EPSCO Council

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