



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 14 October 2010

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SOC 621

NOTE

from : The Presidency
to : COUNCIL (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs)

**Subject : Information from the Belgian Presidency on the Round Table against
Poverty and Social Exclusion debating the implementation and monitoring of
the active inclusion Recommendation
(18 and 19 October 2010)
(Any other business item)**

Delegations will find attached a note from the Presidency.

BACKGROUND NOTE
on the Round Table
against Poverty and Social Exclusion
debating the implementation and monitoring
of the active inclusion Recommendation

EPSCO meeting – 21 October 2010

In 2008, the Commission launched a new initiative on active inclusion. The initiative gave a new impulse to the 1992 Council recommendation on common criteria concerning sufficient resources and social assistance in social protection systems. This Commission Recommendation on the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market is built on three integrated pillars: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services. The Council of 17 December 2008 endorsed "the aim of designing and implementing comprehensive and integrated national strategies to promote the active inclusion of people excluded from the labour market, combining adequate income support, inclusive labour markets and access to quality services on the basis of the common principles and guidelines identified in the Commission's recommendation". It is important now to agree on how to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Active inclusion Recommendation. Moreover, in order to reach the poverty target of the new Europe 2020 strategy, the full implementation of the Recommendation will be an important tool.

Interesting work has been done on inclusive labour markets but the pillars of income support and access to services remain underdeveloped. As the strength of the Active Inclusion Recommendation lies exactly in the balanced combination of the 3 elements, progress should be made on all 3 pillars.

The economic and social crisis highlighted again the importance of adequate income support which in many Member States significantly contributed to limiting the poverty and social exclusion impacts of the crisis as was also emphasized in the 2010 Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion.

The Round table against Poverty and Social Exclusion focused on the implementation of the 3 strands of Active Inclusion.

To build up on the informal EPSCO meeting of July 2010, it appears that more mutual learning, more exchange of experiences and best practices on the topic of adequate income support should be needed. This means working on a common European understanding of the adequacy of income support based on common criteria that could assist, in the respect of subsidiarity, the Member States to monitor their measures. The enhanced process on mutual learning on adequate income support, should include not only the adequacy itself but also the issues of coverage and non take up . Especially the link with the other 2 strands of Active Inclusion namely inclusive labour markets and access to quality services should be examined. This process could be set up within the SPC.

The forthcoming peer-review on Budget Standards held by the Belgian Presidency on the 26th of November, will stimulate this debate and deliver an important basis for the discussion with all relevant stakeholders.

The informal Meeting of Ministers , competent for the fight against poverty , that followed the Round Table, discussed the monitoring of the Active Inclusion Recommendation, as well as the dissemination of the results of the Preview.