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**COVER NOTE**

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from : The Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC)

to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part I) / Council EPSCO

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Subject : The Joint Assessment Framework and the Employment Performance Monitor  
- Joint EMCO-SPC opinion

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Delegations will find attached a joint opinion by the Employment and the Social Protection Committees, presented with a view to the session of the Council (EPSCO) on 6/7 December 2010.



## **The Employment Committee The Social Protection Committee**

### **Joint EMCO-SPC opinion on the Joint Assessment Framework and the Employment Performance Monitor**

The Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee,

- recalling that on July 2010, the Presidency set out how the European Council's orientations of June 2010 would be taken forward over the next semester and highlighted the task given to the Employment Committee to submit to the Council a report on the general assessment framework to monitor of Europe 2020 strategy<sup>1</sup>;
- pursuing the subsequent Council's request to the Employment Committee, the Social Protection Committee and the Commission to present by December 2010 a detailed joint report including a clear and concise employment performance monitor which can be used to identify at a glance the main employment challenges for the European Union and for each Member State<sup>2</sup>;
- taking into account the economic, social and demographic context and different starting positions in each Member State,

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. 12316/10

<sup>2</sup> Doc. 15590/10

adopt the Joint Assessment Framework (JAF), including an Employment Performance Monitor (EPM), and are committed to its further development<sup>3</sup>.

The JAF is an indicator-based assessment system, covering both general and specific policy areas under integrated guidelines 7 to 10. It will facilitate the identification of key challenges in these areas thus supporting Member States in establishing their priorities, and contribute to an overall assessment of progress at EU level. It comprises two main elements:

- Monitoring and assessment of structural reforms under the Employment Guidelines through a three-step methodology including a quantitative and qualitative assessment taking account of Member States priorities. The framework should lead to the identification of key employment challenges (KEC) and potential risk areas (PRA). It will also highlight successful experiences and good practices.
  
- **Quantitative monitoring of progress towards the EU headline and related national targets** in the light of the implementation of the Integrated Guidelines. This element of the framework is supposed to provide a quantitative tracking device for progress in view of the headline and national targets, as well as for the labour market participation and social inclusion of specific groups.

The Committees are committed to use the JAF as an analytical tool that can underpin multi-lateral surveillance, evidence-based policy making and support Member States in establishing their reform priorities, benefiting from mutual learning and identifying good practices.

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<sup>3</sup> COM-EMCO-SPC Report on “Foundations and structures for a Joint Assessment Framework (JAF), including an Employment Performance Monitor (EPM) to monitor the Employment Guidelines under Europe 2020” (EMCO/57/101110/EN-FINAL).

**The results produced by the two main elements of the JAF should nourish an "employment performance monitor"**, a clear, transparent, concise and easy to communicate summary that periodically can be submitted to the EPSCO Council, accompanied by a full quantitative and qualitative analysis.

EMCO will use the Joint Assessment Framework to support its Treaty-based role of contributing to the preparation of the Council proceedings referred to in Article 148. The SPC will also use the Joint Assessment Framework as a tool for the overall assessment of progress towards the EU headline target for poverty reduction and social inclusion in its report on social inclusion and social protection policies.

In order to guarantee that the JAF constantly reflects new socio-economic conditions and incorporates the most relevant policy subjects, the Committees undertake to evaluate the operability and review the framework periodically and in particular after the first European Semester.

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