Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2014

2013/0392(NLE) - 06/05/2014 - Final act

PURPOSE: to maintain **for 2014** the employment guidelines adopted under Council Decision 2010/707/EU 2010 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2014/322/EU on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States for 2014.

BACKGROUND: Article 145 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides that Member States and the Union are to work towards developing a coordinated strategy for employment and particularly for promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce and labour markets responsive to economic change.

The Europe 2020 strategy proposed by the Commission enables the Union to turn its economy towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, accompanied by a high level of employment, productivity and social cohesion. On 13 July 2010, the Council adopted its Recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union. Furthermore, on 21 October 2010, the Council adopted its Decision 2010/707/EU. Those sets of guidelines form the **integrated guidelines for implementing the Europe 2020 strategy**.

The integrated guidelines give precise guidance to the Member States on defining their national reform programmes and on implementing reforms. The employment guidelines should also form the basis for the establishment of the Joint Employment Report sent annually by the Council and the Commission to the European Council.

The examination of the Member States' national reform programmes, contained in the Joint Employment Report adopted by the Council on 28 February 2013, shows that Member States should continue to make every effort to address the following priorities:

- increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment,
- developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs,
- promoting job quality and lifelong learning,
- improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels,
- increasing participation in tertiary education,
- promoting social inclusion and
- combating poverty.

The employment guidelines **should remain stable until the end of 2014** to ensure a focus on their implementation. Until the end of 2014, any updating of the employment guidelines should remain strictly limited. In 2011, 2012 and 2013 the employment guidelines were maintained. **They should be maintained for 2014**.