# Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2015

2015/0051(NLE) - 02/03/2015 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to adopt the guidelines for the employment policies for **2015**.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that Member States are to regard their economic policies and promoting employment as a matter of common concern and shall coordinate their action within the Council. In two distinct articles, it provides that the Council is to adopt broad economic policy guidelines (Article 121) and employment guidelines (Article 148), specifying that the latter must be consistent with the former.

Given this legal basis, the guidelines for employment and economic policies are presented as two distinct – but intrinsically interconnected – legal instruments:

- a Council Recommendation on broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union – Part I of the Integrated Guidelines;

- a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States – Part II of the Integrated Guidelines.

The guidelines were first adopted together (‘integrated package’) in 2010, underpinning the Europe 2020 strategy. It was also decided in 2010 that the integrated guidelines should remain largely stable until 2014.

Whilst the broad economic policy guidelines remain valid for any duration of time, the employment guidelines need to be drawn up each year.

Therefore, the Commission proposes a new set of guidelines.

CONTENT: the Commission proposes new guidelines for Member States’ employment policies. These guidelines shall form part of the ‘integrated guidelines’.

The guidelines are to underpin the Europe 2020 strategy within the context of the **new approach to economic policy making built on investment, structural reform and fiscal responsibility** as set out in the Commission's 2015 Annual Growth Survey.

At the same time, the integrated guidelines are to support the achievement of **smart, sustainable and inclusive growth** and the aims of the European Semester of **economic policy coordination**.

**Guidelines**: the ‘Integrated Guidelines’ are the following and are set out in the annex:

- Guideline 1: Boosting investment

- Guideline 2: Enhancing growth by the implementation of structural reforms

- Guideline 3: Removing key barriers to growth and jobs at EU level
- Guideline 4: Improving the sustainability and growth-friendliness of public finances
- Guideline 5: Boosting demand for labour
- Guideline 6: Enhancing labour supply and skills
- Guideline 7: Enhancing the functioning of labour markets
- Guideline 8: Ensuring fairness, combatting poverty and promoting equal opportunities.