## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **2004/0082(CNS)**<br><br>CNS - Consultation procedure<br>Decision | Procedure completed |
| Employment policy: guidelines for strengthening the implementation of the European strategy<br><br>**Subject**<br><br>4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds | |

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| EMPL Employment and Social Affairs | HERMANGE Marie-Thérèse (PPE-DE) | 24/09/2003 |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| ITRE Industry, External Trade, Research, Energy | | |
| FEMM Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities | | |

### Council of the European Union

| Council configuration | Meetings | Date |
|---|---|---|
| Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs | 2606 | 2004-10-04 |
| Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs | 2586 | 2004-06-01 |

### European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion | |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 07/04/2004 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2004)0239 | Summary |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 19/04/2004 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 19/04/2004 | Vote in committee | | |
| 19/04/2004 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A5-0277/2004 | |
| 22/04/2004 | Decision by Parliament | T5-0366/2004 | Summary |
| 04/10/2004 | Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament | | |
| 04/10/2004 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 29/10/2004 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

## Technical information

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|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2004/0082(CNS) |
| **Procedure type** | CNS - Consultation procedure |
| **Procedure subtype** | Legislation |
| **Legislative instrument** | Decision |
| **Legal basis** | EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 128-p2 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | EMPL/5/20867 |

## Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | | A5-0277/2004 | 19/04/2004 | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | | T5-0366/2004<br>OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0746-0989 E | 22/04/2004 | Summary |

**European Commission**

| Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legislative proposal | COM(2004)0239 | 07/04/2004 | Summary |

**Other institutions and bodies**

| Institution/body | Document type | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CofR | Committee of the Regions: opinion | CDR0152/2004<br>OJ C 043 18.02.2005, p. 0001-0002 | 29/09/2004 | |

## Additional information

| Source | Document | Date |
|---|---|---|
| European Commission | EUR-Lex | |

| Final act |
|---|
| Decision 2004/0740<br>OJ L 326 29.10.2004, p. 0045-0046 Summary |

# Employment policy: guidelines for strengthening the implementation of the European strategy

2004/0082(CNS) - 04/10/2004 - Final act

PURPOSE : to adopt the 2003 guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Council Decision 2004/740/EC.

CONTENT : the Council adopted a Decision maintaining the 2003 guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. The conclusions drawn by the European Employment Task Force and the examination of the Member States' National Action Plans for employment, both contained in the Joint Employment Report 2003-2004, show that Member States and the social partners should give

priority to increasing the adaptability of workers and enterprises to changing economic conditions and labour market demands; attracting more people to enter and remain in the labour market and making work a real option for all, including by facilitating the access of unemployed young people to their first job and by encouraging older workers to stay in the labour market; investing more and more effectively in human capital and lifelong learning as well as in research and development, including in platforms for excellence; and ensuring the effective implementation of reforms through better governance, including efforts aimed at improving democratic involvement, at convincing citizens of the need for reforms and at strengthening links between EU funding, the ESF in particular, and the implementation of the European Employment Guidelines. The Employment Guidelines apply to the new Member States since accession.

In addition, the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and ensure that action is fully consistent with the maintenance of sound public finances and macro-economic stability.

# Employment policy: guidelines for strengthening the implementation of the European strategy

2004/0082(CNS) - 07/04/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to recommend concrete action to promote growth and employment in the enlarged Union. CONTENT : the first update of the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (BEPGs), adopted by the European Commission (INI/2004/2020), reaffirms the economic policy strategy adopted by the European Council in June 2003 and confirms that this strategy is also appropriate for the acceding countries. The Commission also adopts in parallel recommendations on employment, drawing on policy lines agreed at the European Council in March 2004, and the findings of the European Employment Task Force, chaired by Wim Kok, while maintaining the same framework of European Employment Strategy and Guidelines as revised in 2003. While the challenges facing the new Member States are similar to those of the EU-15, the scale of these challenges is, in some cases, much greater. Overall unemployment and the budget deficit are both around double that of the EU-15, while income per capita is less than half that in the EU-15. But the situation varies considerably between the new Member States. Taking due account of their different performances, country-specific recommendations are presented to each of them. In order to maintain a stable structure, the Commission is not proposing any changes to these guidelines, but has adjusted the recommendations to take into account developments within Member States' employment policies as well as the findings of the European Employment Task - Force. The 2004 employment recommendations are presented in three sections: - four common recommendations, concentrating on the priorities for reform, namely: 1) increasing the adaptability of workers and enterprises; 2) attracting more people to enter and remain on the labour market; 3) investing more and more effectively in human capital and lifelong learning; 4) ensuring the effective implementation of reforms through better governance. Individual recommendations to each of the current Member States incorporate many of the specific points raised by the European Employment Task Force. Priorities for the acceding countries to be taken into account as they prepare National Action Plans for Employment for the first time build on the priorities identified by the European Employment Task Force and the Joint Assessment Papers signed by the accession countries and the Commission. These recommendations are one of the tools for implementing the European Employment Strategy, as they identify the most pressing areas to be addressed in each Member State. They recognise that there can be no "one-size-fits-all" solution, but instead identify individual actions that reinforce the process of mutual learning and exchange of experience that is fundamental to the European Employment Strategy.

# Employment policy: guidelines for strengthening the implementation of the European strategy

2004/0082(CNS) - 22/04/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Marie-Thérèse HERMANGE (EPP-ED, F) on the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States subject to amendments. The amendments are as follows: - facilitating the access of unemployed young people to their first job and also the employment/continuance in employment of older people and making work a real option for all; investing more and more effectively in human capital as well as in research and development and lifelong learning; and ensuring effective implementation of reforms through better governance; - the conclusions of the Employment Task Force, which are important, should be taken on board by the Member States when implementing the Employment Guidelines, namely with a view in particular to improving the adaptability of workers and attracting and retaining more people in the work place and investing in skills and lifelong learning. These conclusions should be incorporated instead of new objectives being continually set or existing ones amended. In such a way, the European Union should confront Member States when they under-perform and urge Member States to focus on implementing what has already been agreed; - the European Employment Strategy requires enhanced and improved democratic involvement. To succeed in this, governments need to take concrete measures to mobilise the support and participation of the various stakeholders, and convince the public of the need for reforms. Furthermore, greater efforts should be made to demonstrate to the general public why reform is necessary and why it is in the interest and to the advantage of all; - Member States' performance in respect of the Employment Guidelines should be assessed and measured rigorously so as to ensure absolute validity and reliability of the Guidelines; - to promote economic and social cohesion, the guidelines for employment should also, through the European Social Fund, have the aim of reducing regional disparities in terms of jobs and unemployment, and combating de-industrialisation and relocations outside the Member States, while positively supporting economic and social reconversion, yet without neglecting to back up the development of the most dynamic areas; - in the current context of international competition and globalised trade, the European Employment Strategy should encourage companies to anticipate economic and technological change. Member States should encourage the development of research and support the dissemination of innovation in European enterprises. In this spirit, the European institutions will support initiatives to enable platforms of excellence to be set up between researchers and enterprises. They will encourage subject-based initiatives within the framework of the European programmes ; - in the context of financial allocation, the European institutions should provide support in a spirit not just of assistance but also of economic dynamism. Thus the European institutions should do their utmost to avoid adding complexity to the Member States" policies and on the contrary play a facilitating role. They will endeavour to make procedures for access to European funding simpler and more flexible, and to promote linkages between the various Community programmes.