Basic information

2011/0007(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2011 **Subject** 4.15.02 Employment: guidelines, actions, Funds	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	BERÈS Pervenche (S&D)	20/01/2011

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	BOWLES Sharon (ALDE)	09/02/2011

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	3073	2011-03-07
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	3089	2011-05-19

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion	ANDOR László

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
12/01/2011	Legislative proposal published	COM(2011)0006	Summary
03/02/2011	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
14/02/2011	Vote in committee		Summary
14/02/2011	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0040/2011	
16/02/2011	Debate in Parliament		
17/02/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0070/2011	Summary

17/02/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/03/2011	Debate in Council		Summary
19/05/2011	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
19/05/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
26/05/2011	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2011/0007(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 148-p2
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	EMPL/7/05024

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE456.975	02/02/2011	
Committee opinion	ECON	PE458.621	10/02/2011	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0040/2011	14/02/2011	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0070/2011	17/02/2011	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2011)0006	12/01/2011	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0354/2011	16/02/2011	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act	
Decision 2011/0308 OJ L 138 26.05.2011, p. 0056	Summary

Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2011

2011/0007(CNS) - 19/05/2011 - Final act

PURPOSE: to ensure that the guidelines for Member States' employment policies as set out in the Annex to Council Decision 2010/707/EU on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States are maintained for 2011.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2011/308/EU on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

BACKGROUND: following on from the adoption of the Europe 2020 strategy, the Union plans to turn its economy towards smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, accompanied by high level 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 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. This set of guidelines together 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, reflecting interdependence and in line with the Stability and Growth Pact. The employment guidelines should form the basis for any country-specific recommendations that the Council may address to the Member States under Article 148(4) of the TFEU, in parallel with the country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member States under Article 121(4) of that Treaty. 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' draft National Reform Programmes, contained in the Joint Employment Report adopted by the Council on 7 March 2011, 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 and promoting job quality and lifelong learning;
- improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels, and
- increasing participation in tertiary education, promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

The employment guidelines adopted in 2010 **should remain stable until 2014** to ensure a focus on their implementation. In the intermediate years, until the end of 2014, their updating should continue to be strictly limited.

CONTENT: this decision seeks to **retain for 2011 the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States**, as set out in the Annex to Decision 2010/707/EU of 21 October 2010.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 19.05.2011.

Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2011

2011/0007(CNS) - 07/03/2011

The Council agreed on a **general approach** on a decision concerning the employment guidelines of the Member States for 2011.

Given that the employment guidelines for 2010 were only adopted in October 2010, it is proposed to maintain them unchanged for 2011.

However, the Council was unable to adopt the employment guidelines today, since it has to await the adoption by the European Council on 24 March of its conclusions on the basis of the Joint Employment Report, pending also the opinion of the Committee of the Regions. The European Parliament, the Employment Committee and the Economic and Social Committee have already accepted the Commission's proposal to maintain the guidelines unchanged for 2011.

Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2011

2011/0007(CNS) - 12/01/2011 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to ensure that the guidelines for Member States' employment policies as set out in the Annex to Council Decision 2010/707/EU of 21 October 2010 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States are maintained for 2011 and shall be taken into account by the Member States in their employment policies.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: following the adoption of the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, the European Council agreed to set EU headline targets, which constitute shared objectives guiding action of the Member States and of the Union. The Treaty on the functioning of the EU provides that Member States are to regard their economic policies and promoting employment as matters of common concern and coordinate them 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. 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 Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines;
- a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States -Part II of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines.

These guidelines implemented by the above mentioned legal instruments form together the integrated guidelines for implementing the Europe 2020 strategy. The employment guidelines were adopted on 21 October 2010, and as provided by the adoption decision should remain stable until 2014 to ensure a focus on implementation.

The overall objectives and priorities expressed in the guidelines for the employment policies remain valid. Their validity for 2011 needs to be confirmed by a Council decision, following consultation of the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of Regions and the Employment Committee.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 148(2) TFEU.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

CONTENT: **the proposal provides that the guidelines for Member States' employment policies as set out in the Annex to Council Decision of 21 October 2010 on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States are maintained for 2011** and shall be taken into account by the Member States in their employment policies.

The integrated guidelines are in line with the conclusions of the European Council. They give precise guidance to the Member States on defining their National Reform Programmes and implementing reforms, reflecting interdependence and in line with the Stability and Growth Pact.

The employment guidelines should form the basis for any country-specific recommendations that the Council may address to the Member States under Article 148(4) TFEU, in parallel with the country-specific recommendations addressed to the Member States under Article 121(2) of that Treaty. The employment guidelines should also form the basis for the establishment of the Joint Employment Report sent annually by the Council and the European Commission to the European Council.

The examination of the Member States' draft National Reform Programmes contained in the draft Joint Employment Report shows that Member States should continue to make every effort to address the priority areas of: increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment, developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs and promoting job quality and lifelong learning, improve the performance of education and training systems at all levels and increasing participation in tertiary education, promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

The Employment Guidelines adopted in 2010 **should remain stable until 2014** to ensure a focus on implementation. In the intermediate years until the end of 2014 their updating should remain strictly limited.

Lastly, the proposal states that Member States should explore the use of the European Social Fund when implementing the Employment Guidelines,

Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States in 2011

2011/0007(CNS) - 17/02/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 551 votes to 59, with 8 abstentions, a legislative resolution approving, unamended, in the framework of a special legislative procedure (consultation of the European Parliament), the proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States.

Parliament reiterates its longstanding call to the Commission and the Council to ensure that the Parliament is given the necessary time, and in any event no less than five months, to express its views on the Integrated Guidelines (Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and Employment Guidelines) in the framework of the European Semester and to fulfil its consultative role, as defined in Article 148(2) of the Treaty, during the full revision of the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, which is scheduled to take place in 2014.

It should be noted that the European Parliament expressed its position on this issue in a joint resolution adopted on the same day (refer to RSP/2011/2536).