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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States 2026 - Adoption

I. INTRODUCTION

On 3 June 2026, the Commission submitted a proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States, based on article 148(2) TFEU.

For 2026, the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States are updated to bring in more elements related to job quality, skills and education, poverty reduction and social inclusion, and to reflect recent policy initiatives of particular relevance such as on Quality Jobs Roadmap, the Council Recommendation on Human Capital and the European Anti-Poverty Strategy.

II. **STATE OF PLAY**

The European Council, at its meeting on 19 March 2026, addressed priorities for the 2026 European Semester and considered the employment situation in the European Union.

The European Parliament adopted its Opinion in its plenary session of 21 October 2026.

The Employment Committee (EMCO) transmitted its Opinion[1] on the employment guidelines to the Council, including the Social Protection Committee's (SPC) contribution on the social aspects of the guidelines.

The Committee of the Regions decided not to issue an opinion on the proposal[2]. The opinion of the Economic and Social Committee was adopted at its plenary session on 21 October 2026.

The Social Questions Working Party examined the proposal at its meetings on 16 September and 27 October 2026. Following an informal written procedure, the Working Party reached an agreement in principle on the text of the draft Decision, as set out in doc. ST 15522/26. In doing so, the Social Questions Working Party also took account of the European Parliament's Opinion. The Council Decision (excluding the Annex) is subject to legal-linguistic revision.

1 Letter from EMCO Chair on 15 October 2026.
2 Letter from the Committee of the Regions on 21 September 2026.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to:

- confirm the agreement reached in the Social Questions Working Party on the text of the Council Decision on the employment guidelines contained in doc. ST 15522/26 and
- recommend to the Council (EYCS) to adopt, at its session on 19 November 2026, the Council Decision on the employment guidelines contained in doc. ST 15019/26, as revised by the lawyer linguists, as well as its Annex contained in doc. ST 15019/26 ADD1.