**NON LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE (CONSULTATION)**

**European Parliament legislative resolution on the proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States**

**1. Rapporteur:** Laura AGEA (EFDD/IT)

**2. EP reference number:** A8-0247/2016 / P8\_TA-PROV(2016)0355

**3. Date of adoption of the resolution:** 15 September 2016

**4. Subject:** Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

**5. Interinstitutional reference number:** 2016/0043(NLE)

**6. Legal basis:** Article 148(2) TFEU

**7. Competent parliamentary Committee:** Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

**8. Commission's position on the amendments:** The Commission considers the employment guidelines adopted in 2015 to be appropriate and applicable in 2016. Therefore the Commission's proposal is to maintain, for 2016, the guidelines adopted in 2015. This is justified by the medium-term relevance of the guidelines and the need to ensure a stable policy framework. Maintaining the stability of the guidelines over several years was customary in previous years with the exception of 2015. The Commission takes good note that the Parliament's resolution emphasises the importance of employment and social considerations in the European Semester and supports the Commission's proposal in many of the policy areas covered by the guidelines.

**The Commission thus rejects the amendments that are not supportive of the principle of reconfirming the guidelines and, in principle, accepts the other amendments by the European Parliament**, if partially or subject to redrafting where these pose risks to the operationalization of the guidelines and/or where they go beyond EU institutional or coordinating competence.

The Commission accepts amendments 1 to 3 (recitals).

The Commission accepts amendments 4 to 6 (recitals) subject to redrafting:

**Amendment** **4**: The Commission accepts the amendment subject to redrafting of:

* the call for Country-specific Recommendations to take account not only of economic indicators but also, where appropriate, of employment and social ones, assessing ex‑ante the reforms to be implemented and their impact on citizens, where the Commission highlights the already deep coverage of employment and social trends in the European Semester and the use of a wide variety of employment and social indicators when drafting Country-specific Recommendations.
* the call for the employment guidelines to be established in close cooperation with the European Parliament, where the Commission refers to the TFEU, Articles 121 and 148 which frame the role of the European Parliament.
* the call for the three employment indicators recently included in the macroeconomic imbalance procedure to trigger an in-depth analysis in the relevant Member States, where the Commission refers to the Alert Mechanism Report 2016 COM(2015) 691 final.

**Amendment** **5**: The Commission accepts the amendment subject to redrafting of the call for Member States to take into account the recommendations of the European Parliament on the Annual Growth Survey, the country-specific recommendations and the employment guidelines where the Commission refers to the TFEU, Articles 121 and 148 which frame the role of the European Parliament.

**Amendment** **6**: The Commission accepts the amendment subject to redrafting of the call for the Commission to adopt measures to encourage Member States to develop national minimum basic income schemes, where the Commission refers to the 2008 Recommendation on Active Inclusion and the Country-specific Recommendations addressed to several Member States on this subject within the European Semester.

The Commission rejects amendments 7 and 8:

**Amendment** **7**: As it refers to their alternative proposal set out in amendment 8.

**Amendment** **8**: Proposing, in line with the European Parliament resolution on the 2015 guidelines, an alternative set of employment guidelines for 2016 as the Commission believes that the 2015 guidelines are still valid and should be reconfirmed for 2016.

**9. Outlook for amendment of the proposal**: COREPER I examined and endorsed the Commission proposal on 26 February 2016. The 7 March 2016 EPSCO endorsed the proposal ahead of the CSR adoption in May. Initially the Dutch Presidency envisaged that the June 2016 EPSCO would formally adopt the reconfirmed Guidelines. Because of the change in the Parliament's approach, the EPSCO Council only adopted the Employment Guidelines on 13 October. They are identical with those adopted by the Council in October 2015.

**10. Outlook for the adoption of the proposal:** The Guidelines for the Employment policies of the Member States for 2016 have been adopted as an "A" point by the Council on 13 October 2016.