



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

# EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY & HEALTH

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update

**30.04.10**



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## ***...Commission***

### **Integrated guidelines for the Europe 2020 Strategy**

**COM (2010) 193** - Recommendation for 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.

**(GUIDELINES 1-6) ANNEX: GUIDELINES ON ECONOMIC POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES**

[http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/recommendation\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/eu2020/pdf/recommendation_en.pdf)

**COM (2010) 193/3** - Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States Part II of the Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines

**(GUIDELINES 7-10) ANNEX: GUIDELINES ON EMPLOYMENT POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES**

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0193:FIN:EN:PDF>

**A new set of integrated guidelines for economic and employment policies were proposed by the European Commission on 27 April 2010, as part of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.**

These guidelines spell out clearly how the Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth will be implemented. The strategy's broad outlines were approved at the European Council, on 25-26 March whereby the European Council agreed on five headline targets for the EU (education, poverty, employment, research and climate). The agreement, however, required that certain aspects of these targets required further work.

Based on a note by the Spanish EU Presidency, on 26 April, the General Affairs Council reviewed the work under way to make it possible for the European Council to adopt the new strategy, on 17 June.

The note states that the Commission's proposals for more focused integrated guidelines, including the broad economic policy guidelines and the employment guidelines, will be reviewed by all relevant preparatory bodies with a view to adoption of reports by the Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO), on 7 and 8 June, and by the Ecofin Council, on 8 June. The integrated guidelines will be formally adopted by the European Council in June, in the light of the opinion which Parliament will issue on the employment guidelines.

The June European Council will have to set figures for the education target (reduction of school drop-out rates and increase in the share of the population having completed higher education). An agreement is foreseen at the Education, Youth and Culture Council, on 10 and 11 May.

The European Council will have to set appropriate indicators to underpin the target of promoting social inclusion, particularly through poverty reduction. An agreement on this



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subject is expected at the EPSCO Council, on 7-8 June. A proposal for an indicator on R&D intensity and innovation is expected after June in the context of preparation of the October 2010 European Council, which will focus on R&D and innovation.

#### **The "Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines" are the following:**

- Guideline 1: Ensuring the quality and the sustainability of public finances.
- Guideline 2: Addressing macroeconomic imbalances.
- Guideline 3: Reducing imbalances in the euro area.
- Guideline 4: Optimising support for R&D and innovation, strengthening the knowledge triangle and unleashing the potential of the digital economy.
- Guideline 5: Improving resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases emissions.
- Guideline 6: Improving the business and consumer environment and modernising the industrial base.
- Guideline 7: Increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment.
- Guideline 8: Developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs, promoting job quality and lifelong learning.
- Guideline 9: Improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels and increasing participation in tertiary education.
- Guideline 10: Promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

These guidelines are elaborated in the respective annexes.

## **Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2010-11 on Safe Maintenance**

**The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, known as EU-OSHA, has launched a new campaign in order to raise awareness among EU employers of the importance of maintenance for safe and healthy workplaces and the need to protect workers who perform it.**

It is estimated that 10-15% of all accidents and 10-15% of fatal accidents at the workplace are maintenance related. The Community strategy 2007-2012 on health and safety at work sets the ambitious goal of achieving, by 2012, a 25% reduction in the rate of accidents at work. If the Community is to achieve this, it needs to focus its efforts targeting the most common risks and the most vulnerable sectors of activity, enterprises and workers. The figures show that maintenance is such an activity.

Maintenance is critical to ensure continuous productivity, to produce products of high quality and to keep the competitiveness of companies. But it also has an impact on occupational safety and health. Firstly, good maintenance is essential to keep machines and the work environment safe and reliable. Regular maintenance has an important role in eliminating workplace hazards and providing safer and healthier working conditions. Secondly, maintenance itself is a high-risk activity and it has to be performed in a safe way,



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with appropriate protection of maintenance workers and other people present in the workplace.

#### **European legislation about maintenance**

Since 1989, a number of European directives have been adopted, laying down a general framework of minimum requirements for the protection of workers at the workplace. These directives also apply to maintenance activities, first and foremost the framework directive, including the obligation for the employers to carry out a risk assessment at work.

#### **The Campaign**

A wide variety of Campaign materials are available on the Campaign website. These materials include the official Campaign Guide, posters and leaflets, reports and fact sheets, examples of good practice, animations featuring the popular cartoon character Napo and a variety of other Campaign promotion material. On the corporate Agency website, there is a section dedicated to maintenance, providing e.g. access to risk assessment tools for maintenance.

The European Week for Safety and Health at Work takes place in October every year.

#### **More information on The Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance 2010-11:**

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/campaigns/hw2010/>

### **European Restructuring Monitor *quarterly***

**The European Restructuring Monitor *quarterly* (ERM *quarterly*) offers an overview of the main findings and an interpretation of the data collected over the past three months for the European Restructuring Monitor (ERM).**

It provides statistics comparing restructuring activities across the 27 EU Member States and Norway, identifying the countries and sectors most affected. Each issue of the ERM quarterly will highlight developments in a specific country or sector, pointing to key facts behind the statistical data.

The first issue for 2010 includes:

- current macroeconomic trends and prospects;
- an overview of ERM statistics for January-March 2010;
- sector in focus: European airlines;
- restructuring at GM Opel;
- restructuring research notes.

In addition, background information on two major recent restructuring cases will be presented.

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/templates/displaydoc.php?docID=55>



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## **... CORE GROUP**

### **Revision of the Working Time Directive**

The main item on the agenda of MEUSAC's Core Group today, was the proposal for the revision of the Working Time Directive. Last year, the European Parliament and the Council failed to reach an agreement on the previous proposal. Nevertheless, the Commission still believes that a review of the Directive is necessary to take into consideration changes in working patterns over the last 20 years.

Through this Communication, the Commission is asking for the views of the social partners on the possible direction of EU action on working time.

**Press release on today's Core Group Meeting:**

[http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/press\\_releases/2010/04/pr0761.asp](http://www.doi.gov.mt/EN/press_releases/2010/04/pr0761.asp)