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Til underretning for Folketingets Europaudvalg vedlægges det materiale, som blev udleveret til medlemmer af Folketingets Arbejdsmarkedsudvalg, som deltog i det uformelle møde om EU-sager på beskæftigelsesområdet under det danske formandskab den 5. november 2002 i Beskæftigelsesministeriet.

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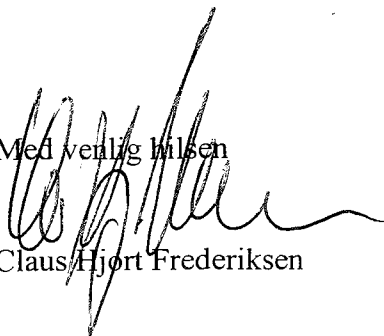
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Til orientering for Folketingets Europaudvalg fremsendes vedlagt det materiale, som blev udleveret til medlemmer af Folketingets Arbejdsmarkedsudvalg, som deltog i det uformelle møde om EU-sager på beskæftigelsesområdet under det danske formandskab den 5. november 2002 i Beskæftigelsesministeriet.

Udenrigsministeriet bedes forestå oversendelsen af materialet til Folketingets Europaudvalg.

Med venlig hilsen


Claus Hjort Frederiksen



RÅDSMØDET DEN 3. DECEMBER 2002

BESKÆFTIGELSE OG SOCIALE SPØRGSMÅL

1. **Kommissionens meddelelse om strømlining af de årlige økonomiske og beskæftigelsespolitiske koordinationsprocesser**
 - *Vedtagelse af rådskonklusioner*
2. **Strukturelle indikatorer**
 - *Vedtagelse af rådskonklusioner*
 - *Formandskabsnote om kønsmainstreaming*
3. **Rådets og Kommissionens fælles beskæftigelsesrapport 2002**
 - *Præsentation ved Kommissionen*
 - *Formandskabspapir om kønsmainstreaming*
4. **Anvendelse og udvikling af indikatorer for kvalitet i arbejdet**
 - *Endossering af rapport*
5. **Kommissionens meddelelse om den europæiske sociale dialog, herunder et forslag til rådsafgørelse om et socialt trepartstopmøde om vækst og beskæftigelse**
 - *Vedtagelse af rapport*
 - *Formandskabsnote om kønsmainstreaming*
6. **Opfølgningen på Kommissionens meddelelse om virksomhedernes sociale ansvar**
 - *Vedtagelse af rådsresolution*
 - *Formandskabsnote om kønsmainstreaming*
7. **Forslag til Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets direktiv vedr. arbejdsvilkår for vikarbureauansatte**
 - *Generel indstilling*
 - *Formandskabsnote om kønsmainstreaming*
8. **Forslag til Rådets henstilling til medlemslandene om forbedring af arbejdsmiljøet for selvstændige**
 - *Politisk enighed*
 - *Formandskabsnote om kønsmainstreaming*
9. **Rummelighed - gennem sociale dialog og partnerskab**
 - *Vedtagelse af rådsresolution*

Resumé af forventede resultater for EU-sagerne på beskæftigelsesområdet under dansk formandskab:

Sagsområde:	Forventet resultat:	Forventet indhold:
Kommissionens meddelelse om strømlining	Rådet og ECOFIN vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 en fælles rapport til DER København på basis af udtalelser fra EMCO, EPC og SPC.	Rapporten forventes at indeholde tilslutning til Kommissionens forslag om en gennemførelsespakke i januar, en retningslinjepakke i april, vedtagelse af retningslinjer og henstillinger efter DER i juni og rapportering fra medlemslandene i oktober.
Kommissionens meddelelse om strukturelle indikatorer	Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 et bidrag til DERs forårsmøde på basis af en fællesudtalelse fra EMCO/EPC.	Bidraget forventes at indebære tilslutning til Kommissionens forslag til liste over indikatorer for 2003 på beskæftigelsesområdet (beskæftigelsesfrekvens, effektiv tilbagetrækningsalder, løngab efter køn, beskatning af lavtlønnede, livslang læring, arbejdsulykker og ledighedsprocent)
Kommissionens meddelelse om den europæiske sociale dialog, herunder forslag om socialt trepartstopmøde	Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 en rapport til DER København. Evt. rådsafgørelse om nedlægelse af Det Stående Udvalg for Beskæftigelsen.	Rapporten forventes at indebære en anbefaling af, at de hidtidige sociale topmøder fortsætter i stort set uændret form.
Kommissionens meddelelse om virksomhedernes sociale ansvar (VSA)	Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 en resolution.	Resolutionen forventes at omfatte en understregning af frivillighedsprincippet og områdets supplerende karakter i forhold til nationale og EU's regler. Endvidere forventes en anmodning om åbenhed i arbejdet i Multi-Stakeholder Forum og om at medlemslandene fremmer VSA nationalt.
Direktivforslag vedr. arbejdsvilkår for vikarbureauansatte	Generel indstilling fra Rådet den 2.-3. december 2002 om de større "knaster".	Disse "knaster" drejer sig især om begreberne "sammenlignelig arbejdstager" og "tilstrækkelig beskyttelse". Endvidere drejer det sig om, hvor lang minimumsperioden skal være, og hvordan lønbegrebet skal anvendes.
Forbedring af arbejdsmiljøet for selvstændige	Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 en henstilling til medlemslandene.	Det forventes, at Rådet vil henstille, at selvstændige gives adgang til information, rådgivning og træning fra offentlige myndigheder uden for store om-

		<p>kostninger for de selvstændige, at selvstændige tilbydes de nødvendige værktøjer til overvågning, og at medlemslandene drager nytte af hinandens erfaringer på området.</p>
<p>Formandskabstemaet "Rummelighed - gennem social dialog og partnerskab"</p>	<p>Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 en resolution.</p>	<p>Resolutionen forventes at omfatte en opfordring til Kommissionen om at fremme social dialog og partnerskab mhp at styrke rummeligheden i et udvidet EU, og at indsamle og analysere eksempler på rummelighed gennem social dialog og partnerskab mhp at udbrede kendskabet til god praksis på området. Endvidere forventes en opfordring til medlemslandene om at udvikle gode partnerskabsmekanismer mhp involvering af alle relevante parter i hele processen med de nationale handlingsplaner (NAP og NAP/Incl). Endelig forventes en opfordring til arbejdsmarkedets parter og civilsamfundets organisationer om at overveje initiativer mhp at styrke rummeligheden i et udvidet EU.</p>
<p>Opfølgning på Verdenstopmødet i Johannesburg</p>	<p>Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 konklusioner om opfølgning på handlingsprogrammet. På beskæftigelsesområdet vedrører det virksomhedernes sociale ansvar (VSA).</p>	<p>Konklusionerne forventes at omfatte en bekræftelse fra EU's side om vilje til at fremme en bæredygtig udvikling, styrke den sociale søjle i en bæredygtig udvikling og fremme en strategi vedr. VSA.</p>
<p>Rummelighed i et udvidelsesperspektiv</p>	<p>Frokostdrøftelse på rådsmødet den 2.-3. december 2002, som evt. kunne munde ud i et brev til DER København med kopi til det kommende græske formandskab.</p>	<p>Formanden kunne lægge op til en drøftelse af, hvordan man sikrer udvikling af rummelige samfund i de nye medlemslande, og hvordan man styrker arbejdsmarkedets parter og civilsamfundets organisationers rolle i denne udvikling.</p>
<p>Direktivforslag vedr. arbejdstagernes beskyttelse mod støj</p>	<p>Rådet vedtager den 2.-3. december 2002 direktivforslaget som a-punkt.</p>	<p>Der er tale om et minimumsdirektiv, som fastlægger en grænseværdi, som ikke må overskrides; en øvre aktionsværdi, hvor arbejdsgiveren skal sikre en reduktion og høreværn; og en nedre aktionsværdi, hvor ar-</p>

		bejdstageren skal modtage underretning/uddannelse og høreværn stilles til rådighed. Endvidere er man nået til enighed med EP om en overgangsordning for ansatte i musikindustrien.
Direktivforslag vedrørende beskyttelse af arbejdstagerne mod elektromagnetiske felter og bølger	Præsentation af formandskabsforslag til revideret direktiv på et socialgruppemøde i november 2002.	Forslaget forventes at indeholde forslag til grænseværdier for arbejdstagernes udsættelse for elektromagnetiske felter og bølger og forslag til aktiviteter, der skal iværksættes, hvis disse værdier overskrides.
Beskæftigelsesstrategien	Kommissionen fremlægger i januar 2003 forslag til revideret beskæftigelsesstrategi.	Det forventes, at forslaget vil være i overensstemmelse med den fælles politiske platform, som Rådet og ECOFIN tilsluttede sig den 8. oktober 2002.



The Employment Committee The Economic Policy Committee

Joint Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Economic Policy Committee on the future direction of the European Employment Strategy

At their meetings in July and September, the Committees – taking into account the conclusions of the Barcelona European Council – have discussed the results of the evaluation and the review of the Employment Strategy on the basis of the Commission Communication on taking stock of five years of the European Employment Strategy (COM (2002) 416 final).

The Committees broadly agree with the analysis of and conclusions on the experiences and progress made during the first five years of the Luxembourg process which are set out in the Commission Communication. The Strategy has contributed to changes in national employment policies which are clearly converging towards the achievement of common EU-level objectives. Employment has become a central concern of EU and national level policy making. The Strategy has helped to foster partnerships, including co-operation with the Social Partners and regional and local authorities.

The evaluation shows that – in addition to the importance of the positive impact of an improved macroeconomic situation – there have been some recent structural improvements in the EU's labour market performance, with more employment-intensive growth, wage moderation and greater responsiveness to economic and social changes. There are still many problems to be tackled and the need for structural reform of labour markets (and indeed of all other markets) remains; these issues may be more pressing in the event of an economic downturn. Overall, this highlights the increasing importance of the Employment Strategy and the need for continued commitment to it.

Against this background, the Committees stress that the review of the Employment Strategy should take stock of the achievements of the Strategy and the practical experience of its strengths and weaknesses over the past five years and should respond to the objectives set by the Lisbon European Council to create more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.

The future direction of the European Employment Strategy

The Committees note the call in the Barcelona conclusions for a reinforced Employment Strategy which *inter alia*:

- must incorporate the targets and goals agreed at Lisbon related to raising employment rates and participation, promoting quality in work and inclusive labour markets;
- must be simplified – in particular by reducing the number of guidelines, without undermining their effectiveness – and its time frame aligned with the Lisbon deadline of 2010; and
- must reinforce the role and responsibility of the Social Partners in implementing and monitoring the Employment Guidelines.

The Committees generally welcome the Commission Communication's identification of the main issues for the debate on the future of the Employment Strategy.

The Committees share the Commission's view that the Employment Strategy should be seen in the context of the strategic objectives set at the Lisbon European Council, with the achievement of the Lisbon and Stockholm employment targets being central to the revised Employment Strategy.

In line with the Commission's Communication, the Committees have identified the following principles which should provide the basis for the ongoing review of the Employment Strategy:

- The Employment Strategy should cover broad areas in an integrated way, focused on priorities for employment policies. There should be a clearer focus on the outcomes to be achieved through the Strategy and on progress in implementation, and therefore ensuring the effective contribution of the Strategy to achieving the Lisbon strategic objectives. The specific means for achieving the objectives and for implementing the Guidelines, decided at national level, should be discussed within the context of the Employment Strategy;
- The Employment Guidelines should be simplified by concentrating on commonly agreed strategic priorities, underpinned by appropriate targets, and should be reduced in number, without undermining their effectiveness. In this context, the Guidelines' four-pillar structure, the need for horizontal objectives and the grouping of individual guidelines should be carefully reviewed;
- In responding to the challenges of demography, globalisation, the knowledge society, adapting to change and enlargement, the Employment Strategy has the leading role in the establishment and co-ordination of the employment policy priorities to which Member States should subscribe. Among the priorities identified, the Committees would draw Ministers' attention to the following broad objectives:
 - job creation and increasing labour force participation;
 - improving quality in work;
 - improving and modernising the functioning of the labour market;
 - ensuring both flexibility and security;

and specifically to;

- increasing labour force supply by policies to promote the employment of women, older people and people who are at a disadvantage in the labour market;
- promoting active and preventive labour market policies which are effective and efficient;

- reforming tax and benefit systems (including incentives to take up and remain in work);
- improving lifelong learning, skills and mobility;
- strengthening gender equality (including reconciling work and family life) and combating discrimination; and
- promoting developments in entrepreneurship conducive to job creation.

In addition, the Economic Policy Committee emphasises the importance of improving regulatory conditions with the aim of offering new jobs or taking up employment; and the Employment Committee emphasises the importance of promoting, anticipating and managing change;

- Within an annual framework, as provided by the Treaty, the Employment Strategy should focus on the medium and longer term challenges to be met by the Lisbon 2010 deadline. With a view to ensuring a clearer focus on outcomes and on medium and long-term goals of the Strategy, greater stability in the Employment Guidelines is necessary and changes need not be made every year. Overlaps and duplications with other processes should, wherever possible, be avoided, in particular by increased co-ordination and complementarity between the Employment Strategy and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines, while recognising the importance of their respective roles and contributions;
- The process of providing free-standing National Action Plans for employment over a multi-annual cycle should be simplified – while preserving comparability and a sufficient basis for analysis in the Joint Employment Report – and have a greater emphasis on reporting on progress on the implementation of the Guidelines, including in response to the employment recommendations;
- The indicators are an essential tool of the Employment Strategy. Once the priorities for the future Strategy have been agreed, the indicators should be reviewed to clearly reflect the objectives of the revised Employment Guidelines, with the aim of producing a more effective set of indicators which are robust, comparable, better focused and use up to date information sources;
- Taking full account of the declaration made by the Social Partners in the context of the Laeken European Council meeting in December 2001, which provides a solid basis for defining the role of the Social Partners in the Employment Strategy, the Committees emphasise the importance of the Social Partners' responsibility for and contribution to the implementation of the Employment Guidelines, while fully respecting the autonomy of the Social Partners;
- Recognising the Treaty-based role of the European Parliament in adopting the Employment Guidelines, further consideration should be given to how the European Parliament could be actively involved in the design and development of the Employment Strategy. National parliaments also have an important role to play in this respect; and

- Regional and local authorities should also have a strong role and responsibility in the development and implementation of the Employment Strategy.

In response to the request from the Barcelona European Council, the Commission has adopted a Communication (COM(2002) 487 final) on streamlining the annual economic and employment policy co-ordination cycles. The Committees consider that the consistency and complementarity between the Employment Strategy and the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines (as well as other processes) need to be ensured, while respecting their distinctive roles.

The Committees believe that it would be important to have independent contributions from the respective Council formations to the preparation of the Spring European Council.

Against this agreed background, the Employment Committee will continue its discussions of the Commission Communication on streamlining the annual economic and employment policy co-ordination cycles at its meeting in November with a view to submitting its Opinion to the Council in December. The Economic Policy Committee will submit its views on streamlining to the October ECOFIN Council.

The Employment Committee has discussed possible options for simplifying the annual National Action Plan process with a view to reducing the burden of reporting and will return to this issue.

In the perspective of enlargement, the Employment Committee will meet representatives of the candidate countries in November in order to discuss the future Employment Strategy.

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