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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING THE MANDATE OF THE EMPLOYMENT,
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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Background

1. The current mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) is due to expire on 31 December 2014. The predecessor body to the Committee, the Manpower and Social Affairs Committee, was established in 1961, following the recommendation of the OECD Preparatory Committee “to create a Manpower Committee to deal with manpower questions connected with the general objectives of the Organisation and those social questions which are closely linked with manpower problems”. In 1991, the Council renamed the Manpower and Social Affairs Committee the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) [[C/M\(91\)14](#), Item 130 b)].

2. In March 2004, the Council decided to introduce sunset clauses for committees with open-ended mandates [[C/M\(2004\)5/PROV](#), Item 75], which required the ELSAC to renew its mandate by the end of 2008. At the time, the Committee’s mandate dated from 1961 and consisted of a number of extracts from the Minutes of Council meetings [C/M(81)15(Final), Item 154 i) & [C/M\(91\)14](#), Item 130 b)]. Following discussion in the Committee in April 2008 [[DELSA/ELSA/M\(2008\)1](#)], the ELSAC’s mandate was extended until 30 June 2010 and it was agreed that following the outcome of the In-Depth Evaluation (IDE) of the Committee, a new mandate would be established which would clearly state the policy objectives of the Committee in order to improve employment performance and social cohesion [[C\(2008\)199](#) & [C/M\(2008\)21](#), Item 303].

3. The IDE carried out in 2010 recommended that the Committee prepare a fully revised mandate, which expressed clearly the overarching objectives of the ELSAC and its Working Parties; the Working Party on Employment, the Working Party on Social Policy and the Working Party on Migration [[C\(2010\)92](#)]. After extensive discussions, the ELSAC agreed on the new draft mandate in May 2010, which was subsequently approved by the Council and entered into force on 1 August 2010 [[C\(2010\)93/REV1](#)]. The current mandate clearly sets out the overarching objectives of the Committee which is to assist Members to foster employment and social policies to promote high employment and social inclusion, to improve the position of vulnerable groups on the labour market, help Members identify policy measures to reduce unemployment and strengthen labour supply, and to enable Members to better manage migration and integration policies.

4. It should also be noted that the Working Party on Migration (WPM) had a special status within the ELSAC set-up. In 1979, Council had decided [C/M(79)5, Item 6] that the WPM was instructed “to report to the Council – at regular intervals, as required, such reports to be transmitted through the [Manpower and Social Affairs Committee] Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee, which may formulate comments there on as appropriate”. The IDE also recommended that the “ELSAC should, with a view to increasing the impact of its work on migration policy, review the functioning of the Working Party on Migration, in particular how national contexts and different policy-making priorities can be better taken into account when its policy orientation is set, and advise on whether the Working Party should be fully included within its substructure” [[C\(2010\)92](#)].

5. In March 2011 the ELSAC reviewed its interaction with the WPM and agreed that the Committee would be better able to take into consideration complementarities and trade-offs between employment, social and migration policies, if the WPM were fully integrated into its substructure [[DELSA/ELSA/M\(2011\)1](#)]. Following the Council’s approval of this proposal [[C\(2011\)118](#); [C/M\(2011\)14/PROV](#), Item 154], the WPM no longer reports directly to the Council. Consequently, the three Working Parties regularly to the ELSAC and the duration of their mandates is directly linked to the mandate of the ELSAC.

6. Given the continued relevance of the mandate of the ELSAC, the Committee in April 2014 proposed that its mandate, as set out in the draft resolution in the Annex hereto, (with the addition of the

reference to the Resolution on partnerships in OECD bodies which has now been included in the Preamble to conform with current presentation practice for Level-1 Committee mandates), should be renewed without substantive changes for a period of five years, until 31 December 2019 [[DELSA/ELSA/M\(2014\)1](#)]. If the guidance which will emerge from the planned meeting at Ministerial level organised by ELSAC in 2015 [[C\(2014\)62](#)], justifies a change in the mandate, the Committee may return to the Council to propose a revised mandate before 2019.

7. In accordance with Rule 21 c) of the Rules of Procedure, the ELSAC in April 2014 also examined its substructure and Members considered how the interaction of the work of the three Working Parties continued to promote complementarities and trade-offs through their inter-related outputs that remain very relevant to the future work of the Committee. This was evidenced in the discussion on the draft Programme of Work and Budget for 2015-16 where the proposed outputs will assist policymakers in designing and implementing policies that generate good jobs, develop skills, assist Members to manage better international migration, enhance social cohesion, reduce inequality and poverty, improve the position of vulnerable groups on the labour market and promote equality of opportunities for all, and rely on a strong horizontal approach with the support of the three Working Parties. The ELSAC consequently agreed that the three Working Parties are of continued relevance for carrying out the work of the Committee [[DELSA/ELSA/M\(2014\)1](#)].

Proposed Action

8. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2014\)87](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution of the Council renewing the mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2014\)87](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2015.

ANNEX

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING THE MANDATE OF THE
EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

THE COUNCIL

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of the Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to the following Council Decisions concerning the Manpower Committee:

- Paragraph 35 of the Report of the Preparatory Committee;
- Minutes of the 543rd Meeting of the Council [C/M(81)15(Final)];
- Minutes of the 761st Meeting of the Council [[C/M\(91\)14](#), Item 130 b)], renaming the Committee "The Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee";

Having regard to Council Decision regarding a Sunset Clause for all Committees [[C/M\(2004\)5](#), Item 75] entered into force on 22 April 2004 [[C/M\(2004\)10](#), Item 143, IV, c)];

Having regard to the Council Decision on the extension of the mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee [[C\(2008\)199](#) and [C/M\(2008\)21](#), Item 303];

Having regard to the recommendations of the In-depth Evaluation [[C\(2010\)92](#)];

Having regard to the proposed revision of the mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee [[C\(2010\)93/REV1](#)];

DECIDES:

1. The Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee has the following mandate:
 - i) The overarching objective of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee is to foster comprehensive, cost-effective and innovative employment and social policies to promote strong, sustainable economic growth, high employment rates and enhance social inclusion in Members and, as appropriate, non-Members;
 - ii) This shall be accomplished by the provision of Output Results that assist policymakers in designing, adapting and implementing policies that generate good jobs, develop skills,

assist Members to manage better international migration, enhance social cohesion, reduce inequality and poverty, improve the position of vulnerable groups on the labour market, and promote equality of opportunities for all;

- iii) Within the framework of the 2006 *Reassessed Jobs Strategy* and following the orientations for future work set out by the OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial in September 2009, identify cost-effective policy options to promote the creation of more and better jobs. The Committee will help Members identify policy measures to reduce unemployment and strengthen labour supply e.g. by improving active labour market measures and skill building based on identified needs. Moreover, the outputs of the Committee will assist Members to identify and implement good practices to promote an efficient allocation of labour towards more productive and rewarding uses while also promoting equality of job opportunity for all and addressing key concerns associated with workers' well-being, including low pay and segmentation of the workforce between jobs with different working conditions and career prospects;
- iv) Assist Members to establish responsive, cost-effective and transparent migration and integration policies with a view to enable Members to better manage labour migration to support economic growth and to improve integration of immigrants and their families into the labour market within the parameters of domestic regulation;
- v) Review social policies which promote an inclusive, responsive and efficient economy by helping people to contribute fully to society through work or other means, thereby enabling economic growth to be higher and shared more equitably. The outputs of the Committee will serve to identify and promote good practices in the areas of family and child policies, pensions and care policies, policies to foster social inclusion, such as employment-oriented social policies and measures to combat poverty, as well as other issues designated as priorities by periodic meetings of Social Policy ministers and outlined in the Committee's work programme.

2. In this context, the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee will:

- i) Provide a forum for Members and, as appropriate, non-Members to share views and experience on current and emerging issues and challenges in generating sustainable employment-oriented economic growth arising from ageing, changing labour and product markets and family structures, and their social consequences; in this it will be pro-active, responding to changing circumstances and the priorities of the Organisation;
- ii) Serve as a forum for Members and, as appropriate, non-Members to exchange information on national policies and practices related to employment and training, international migration and social policies;
- iii) Maintain and develop comparable sets of data and indicators, as a basis for research and analyses in these areas;
- iv) Commission research and analysis on emerging issues within the given constraints of the Committee's resource capacity;
- v) Disseminate results through publication of studies and participation in conferences and meetings with policy-makers and stakeholders;

- vi) Promote the sharing of information and experiences in the development of labour market, social and international migration policies with non-Members, particularly in the emerging G20 framework and other relevant fora, and share policy dialogue with them to increase their awareness of, and contribution to, the work of the Committee.

3. In order to efficiently implement the aforementioned activities, the Committee shall:

- i) Maintain close working relationships with other relevant bodies of the Organisation, seeking to (a) be actively engaged in, and where appropriate lead, joint work and ensure that it is undertaken in a co-ordinated manner; (b) complement and support work that other bodies are leading; and (c) ensure that other work of the OECD considers the impacts on labour, social and international migration policies;
- ii) Maintain, as appropriate, and in conformity with the OECD Convention and Rules of Procedures, relations with other entities, particularly the ILO and other observers, seeking to achieve co-ordinated and complementary work programmes in areas of shared interest and mutual benefit, conducting joint projects where appropriate and ensuring that the experience and expertise of other bodies is appropriately incorporated into the Committee's work;
- iii) Expand its co-operation with the ILO, European Union, IMF, World Bank and other relevant international organisations in support of the G20 process;
- iv) Ensure that the views and expertise of non-government institutions are drawn upon in the conduct of the Committee's work, utilising, *inter alia*, the Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC) and contacts with relevant non-governmental organisations.

4. The mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee will remain in force until 31 December 2019.