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COVER NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council

To: Delegations

Subject: Meeting of the European Council on the Future of Social Europe (27-28 April 2018)

Delegations will find the full text adopted by the European Council at the above meeting.

The European Council is aware and concerned about the air traffic controller strike happening in major airports in several member states.

The European Council:

- 1) Stresses the importance of reaching consensus in a bid to alleviate the conflicts among the relevant parties
- 2) While recognizing and respecting the fundamental rights of European citizens to protest and strike, as stated in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*, security and rights of passengers should be secured. In this connection, the European Council calls for the resumption of airline services for the convenience and well-being of travellers.
- 3) Recommends all parties to resolve the dispute through continuous, open and rational dialogue and negotiations, on both European and national levels.
- 4) Invites national governments concerned to offer their support to mediate between employers and employees.

Regarding European Labour Authority

The Objective

The European Labour Authority is committed to promoting and preserving the free movement of workers within the Union. Clear, fair and practical rules are essential for the future of social Europe.

The Functions

- Facilitate individuals and employers' access to information regarding their rights and obligations, as well as access to cross-border labour mobility services;
- Support Member States with capacity building, through mutual learning, training, and the promotion of good practices;

- for instance, to strengthen capacity building in technology information and exchange
- Mediate between Member States' authorities in cases of disputes concerning the application of EU law;
 - The main role of ELA is liaison and mediation.
- Enhance communication among all stakeholders, especially in terms of cross-border mobility and labour market.

Formation

The ELA (as a decentralised European Commission's agency) should be up and running from 2019 to 2020 and become fully operational by 2023.

Management Board

The ELA will be coordinated by a Management Board comprising a senior representative from each Member State and two representatives of the Commission, all with voting rights. An Executive Director will manage the Authority.

Advisory Group

European Advisory Group will be established to advise and assist the Commission on the swift establishment and future functioning of the European Labour Authority, pending its establishment. The group will be chaired by the Commission and will allow key stakeholders, such as representatives from the Member States and Union-level social partners, to exchange best practices and experiences on cooperation in the areas of cross-border labour mobility and social security coordination that could be further developed by the Authority. The Group will also assist with identifying the means of cooperation and contribution of relevant existing bodies, including EU agencies, towards the establishment and good functioning of the Authority.

Regarding Social Pillars

Education

Every EU citizen has the right to receive sufficient vocational training to fulfill their employment requirements.

Gender Equality

Recommends all Member States to implement education guidelines that address gender inequality.

Reaffirms that women and men are entitled to equal pay and member states are dedicated to reduce the gender wage gap.

In order to increase the transparency of wage determination, companies should be urged to publish the wage distribution.

Member States are encouraged to implement flexible working arrangements for parents, such as parental leave.

Employment

Equal opportunities and access to labour market are crucial for a sustainable and inclusive Europe. This policy direction is also a coherent strategy in response to the Active Inclusion Recommendation of 2008 with the intention “to ensure access to employment is an opportunity open for all”.

It is, therefore, important to provide and secure fundamental and necessary unemployment benefits by Member States and all social partners concerned. Meanwhile, guaranteeing safe working conditions and inclusive labour policy should be on a par with equal opportunities and access to labour market, as it has been enshrined in the *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union*.

The European Council recommends further elaboration on the remaining dimensions of the *European Pillar of Social Rights* and discussion on potential or existing social rights loopholes shall be considered during next meeting(s).
