

## Draft for a Council Decision establishing the Employment Committee

(2000/C 21 E/13)

COM(1999) 440 final — 1999/0192(CNS)

(Submitted by the Commission on 17 September 1999)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community, and in particular Article 130 thereof,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3 of the Treaty sets out that the activities of the Community shall include the promotion of coordination between employment policies of the Member States with a view to enhancing their effectiveness by developing a coordinated strategy for employment;
- (2) Title VIII of the Treaty establishes the procedures by which Member States and the Community shall work towards developing a coordinated strategy for employment and particularly for promoting a skilled, trained and adaptable workforce and labour markets responsive to economic change; this Title provides for the establishment of an advisory Employment Committee (hereafter referred to as 'the committee');
- (3) The European Council at its meeting in Cologne in June 1999 launched a process of macroeconomic dialogue at Community level;
- (4) The members of the committee nominated by the Member States and the Commission should possess the required level of knowledge, experience and standing; its chairperson should represent the interests of the committee as a whole and may also be an expert from one of the Member States holding a position of vice-chairperson;
- (5) A structure of working groups should allow the committee itself to determine the structure through which detailed expertise will be available to that committee;
- (6) The Amsterdam Resolution on Growth and Employment of 16 June 1997 called for an enhanced coordination of economic policies to complement the procedure as envisaged in the new Title on Employment in the Treaty, and requested that the Employment Committee should work closely together with the Economic Policy Committee; close collaboration with the Economic and Financial Committee, and with the social partners represented in the Standing Committee on Employment provided for by the Council Decision of 9 March 1999 on the reform of the Standing Committee on Employment

and repealing Decision 70/532/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>, will also be required;

- (7) The Employment Committee is to replace the Employment and Labour Market Committee, established by the Council Decision 97/16/EC <sup>(2)</sup> to assist the Council in carrying out its responsibilities in the fields of labour and social affairs; Decision 97/16/EC must therefore be repealed,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### Article 1

#### Institutions and functions

1. An advisory Employment Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the committee') is hereby established to promote coordination between Member States on employment and labour market policies, in full compliance with the Treaty and with due regard for the powers of the Community's institutions and organs.
2. The committee shall, in particular, be responsible for:
  - monitoring the employment situation and employment policies in the Member States of the Community;
  - formulating opinions at the request of either the Council or the Commission or on its own initiative, and contributing to the preparation of the Council proceeding referred to in Article 128 of the EC Treaty, without prejudice to Article 207 of that Treaty;
  - promoting exchanges of information and experience between Member States and with the Commission in these fields;
  - participating in the dialogue on macroeconomic policies at Community level.

### Article 2

#### Membership

1. The Member States and the Commission shall each appoint two members of the committee. They may also appoint two alternates.
2. The member of the committee and the alternates shall be selected from among senior experts possessing outstanding competence in the field of employment and labour market policy in the Member States.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ L 72, 18.3.1999, p. 33.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 32.

3. The committee may call on external experts where appropriate to its agenda.

*Article 3*

**Operation**

1. The committee shall elect its chairperson from among its members for a non-renewable term of two years.

2. The chairperson shall be assisted by three vice-chairpersons representing those Member States which at any given time represent the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council, and those Member States which have preceded and will follow the incumbent Presidency.

3. The Commission shall provide the analytical and organisational support for the committee. It shall liaise with the General Secretariat of the Council with regard to the holding of meetings.

4. The committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

5. Meetings of the committee shall be convened by the chairperson, either on his own initiative or at the request of at least half of the members of the committee.

*Article 4*

**Working groups**

The committee may entrust the study of specific questions to its alternate members or to working groups. In such cases, the

chair shall be taken by either the Commission, a member or an alternate member of the committee, appointed by the committee. The working groups may call upon experts to assist them.

*Article 5*

**Liaison with other bodies**

1. The committee shall consult management and labour. It shall establish coordination mechanisms with the social partners represented on the Standing Committee on Employment.

2. The committee shall work as appropriate in cooperation with other relevant bodies and committees dealing with economic policy matters.

*Article 6*

**Repeal**

Decision 97/16/EC is hereby repealed.

The Employment and Labour Market Committee established by the above Decision shall cease to exist upon adoption of this Decision.

*Article 7*

**Publication**

This Decision shall be published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

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