



**COUNCIL OF
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Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth: the Council adopts broad economic policy guidelines

The Council today¹ took an important step in the implementation of the new Europe 2020 strategy for jobs and growth, by adopting a recommendation establishing new broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States and of the Union ([11646/10](#)).

The recommendation, together with a draft Decision on guidelines for employment policies², forms "*integrated guidelines*" for structural reforms which will have to be carried out over the next few years under the new strategy.

On the basis of these integrated guidelines, Member States will draw up national reform programmes which will set out in detail the actions to be undertaken. Particular emphasis will be placed on the efforts needed to meet the national targets, as well as on measures to remove the bottlenecks that constrain sustainable growth at the national level.

The European Council will assess annually the progress made at both EU and Member State level under the 2020 strategy. Macro-economic, structural and competitiveness developments, as well as overall financial stability, will be examined simultaneously.

¹ The decision was taken at an Economic and Financial Affairs Council meeting.

² The adoption of the Decision on employment policies is planned for October, following consultation of the European Parliament.

P R E S S

The integrated guidelines are as follows:

- (1) ensuring the quality and the sustainability of public finances;
- (2) addressing macroeconomic imbalances;
- (3) reducing imbalances in the euro area;
- (4) optimising support for research, development and innovation, strengthening the knowledge triangle and unleashing the potential of the digital economy;
- (5) improving resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases;
- (6) improving the business and consumer environment and modernising the industrial base in order to ensure the full functioning of the internal market;
- (7) increasing labour market participation and reducing structural unemployment;
- (8) developing a skilled workforce responding to labour market needs, promoting job quality and lifelong learning;
- (9) improving the performance of education and training systems at all levels and increasing participation in tertiary education;
- (10) promoting social inclusion and combating poverty.

The Council had already recorded its agreement on the text of the recommendation at its meeting on 8 June, and the European Council gave its political endorsement on 17 June.
