

Commitments

made at the hearing of

MARIANNE THYSSEN

**Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills and Labour Mobility**



In her answers to the questionnaire and during the hearing on 1 October 2014 before the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, the Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, the commissioner-designate Marianne Thyssen made a number of commitments.

Commitments relevant to the work of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs are highlighted in this document¹.

Europe 2020 Strategy

Review of the Strategy

"I intend to contribute significantly to the review on the Europe 2020 Strategy. We need to move from crisis management back to a real long-term strategy to support sustainable growth."

European Semester

Re-balance, streamline and reinforce the European Semester

"I will contribute actively in the project to re-balance, streamline and reinforce the European Semester, in particular to ensure that employment and social policies are duly taken into account. I will pay particular attention on the need to improve the engagement of stakeholders in the economic governance too."

Social impact assessments

"I believe that a smooth functioning of the Economic and Monetary Union requires more convergence of labour market policies among the members of the euro area. This also includes developing social impact assessments for any future conditional stability support programme for Euro area countries in difficulty."

Give social indicators more weight

Ms Thyssen said that an effort needs to be made to give the social indicators a lot more weight and that we must give to the social indicators the same weight as the economic indicators.

Social Impact

To take into account, at all levels, the social impact of measures proposed by the Commission

Ms Thyssen sees it as her task to ensure that the EU policy during the five coming years takes into account, in every field, the social consequences of every possible measure.

Mobility of workers

Eures

"I will pursue proposals to the modernisation and reform of the EURES platform to support employment and job matching through mobility."

Posting of workers and social dumping

"As Commissioner responsible for labour mobility, I will work together with national authorities to ensure that existing rules are well understood and implemented, and also to help them fight abuses or fraudulent claims. I shall therefore support the quality transposition process and the application of the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers and I shall set in motion a targeted review to make sure social dumping has no place in the EU."

Skills and qualifications

Recognition and anticipation

"I will work with stakeholders to develop effective tools for the recognition of skills and qualifications, and for the anticipation of skills needs, in particular in sectors with a strong job creation potential (green economy, ICT, health sector)."

Vocational training and adult education

"I also intend to mobilise all our policy, legal and financial instruments within my portfolio to give a fresh impetus to the Commission action in the field of vocational training and adult education, building on dual learning practices on the first results of the Alliance for Apprenticeship."

Youth Employment

Accelerate implementation

"The EU has taken a number of measures to help young people become integrated into the labour market, in particular the Youth Guarantee, financially supported by the Youth Employment Initiative. These also include the European Alliance for Apprenticeships and the Quality Framework for Traineeships. My priority will be to accelerate their implementation, extend their scope, and propose new action if appropriate."

Social dialogue

Restarting the EU social dialogue

"I plan to propose a review involving the EU social partners and all national leaders of the employers' organisations and trade unions. It will offer the chance to improve the use of existing social-dialogue instruments and see how to involve social partners more closely in the European Semester process on European and national level."

Information and consultation of workers

"As to the anticipation and the management of restructuring, it is critical to follow closely the implementation of the quality framework proposed by the Commission. It will have to be reviewed in 2016. A possible consolidation of the three existing directives on the consultation and information of workers will have to be examined too."

European Disability Strategy

"I will work to review progress [on the actions of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020] and consider the way forward to create a barrier-free Europe for people with disabilities."

Maternity leave directive

Ms. Thyssen said to be ready to reopen the discussion with all parties concerned.

Working time directive

"Following two unsuccessful attempts by the co-legislators to review the Working Time Directive, the Commission is carrying out a detailed impact assessment, which should be finalised in the first half of 2015. Building on lessons learned during the failed negotiations, I will seek a consensus among the co-legislators but also the active involvement of the social partners, to adjust the EU rules to new work patterns and needs."

Health and safety at work

Next steps will be decided on the basis of the results of the ex-post evaluation of 24 Directives

"I intend to pursue the Commission's policy of helping to improve workers' health and safety in the EU and to reduce work-related health problems. A comprehensive ex-post evaluation of 24 Directives is in progress and the result should be known by the end of 2015. I will then decide the next steps on the basis of the results of the evaluation."

¹ Quotes are either taken from the commissioner-designate's answers to the questionnaire or from the hearing held on 1 October 2014. In case of multiple quotes on the same issue, only one is reported here to enhance legibility. Some quotes may be free translations of the original language spoken.



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