

## Implementation of the Social Pillar

The European Pillar of Social Rights ('Social Pillar') was proclaimed and signed jointly by the Commission, Council and European Parliament, on 17 November 2017 at the Gothenburg Social Summit. The main challenge remains bringing this reference framework to all citizens across the EU. Due to limited EU competence in the social field, implementation is for the Member States, in cooperation with social partners. Parliament has repeatedly promoted the importance of focusing on three elements in the implementation process: a life-cycle approach, governance and funding. The December plenary is due to hear statements from the Commission and Council, prior to the European Council meeting in December, at which there is to be further discussion on the social dimension of the EU, including education.

### Background

As announced in the 2015 [Five Presidents' report](#), the aim of the current Commission is to earn a 'Social triple A' for the EU, as a tool to contribute to fair and balanced growth, decent jobs and labour protection. The [Social Pillar](#), put forward in [April 2017](#), addresses three main topics: equal opportunities and access to the labour market; fair working conditions; and social protection and inclusion. It should serve as a reference framework for the future development of EU labour markets and welfare states. The pillar builds on the existing EU [social acquis](#) but extends them also to new categories of workers, such as the self-employed. Debates around its future implementation are part of the debate on the future of Europe that started in March 2017 with the launching of the [white paper process](#), and subsequently developed with two of the Commission's five specific reflection papers, on the [social dimension](#) of the EU and on [harnessing globalisation](#).

### Joint proclamation on the Social Pillar and next steps

The signing of the [joint proclamation](#) on the Social Pillar demonstrates the commitment and the responsibility assumed by the three institutions to open a new chapter for the social dimension of the European project. The proclamation endorses the 20 principles and rights, and claims that although originally conceived for the euro area, the Social Pillar is addressed to all Member States. Implementation is for the Member States, with the social partners. To this end, the social partners signed a [joint statement](#) ahead of the Summit on how they can contribute to fair jobs and growth in the future. The important role of the [European Economic and Social Committee](#) and the [Committee of the Regions](#) has been [recognised](#) in the implementation process. In its [2018 work programme](#) the European Commission plans to monitor the implementation of the Social Pillar by integrating the [Social Scoreboard](#) accompanying the Social Pillar into the [European Semester](#) process, and thus strengthening the latter's social and employment aspects. The Commission also aims to make progress on the pending [social files](#), the [European Skills Agenda](#), and to bring forward a [social fairness package](#), including the establishment of a [European Labour Authority](#), a [European Social Security Number](#), an initiative [on social protection](#) for atypical self-employed workers, and a revised [written statement directive](#).

### European Parliament position

Parliament has made several proposals on how to strengthen the social dimension of EU policies. Its January 2017 [resolution](#) on the Social Pillar took a life-cycle approach to people at different stages of their lives, and touched upon legislation, governance, and funding, including additional financial instruments for the euro area. Other [resolutions](#) focusing on the social and employment aspects of EU economic governance emphasised the importance of giving the same weight to social and employment indicators as to economic measurements in the country analysis. Finally, [other resolutions](#) suggested the introduction of a 'convergence code', i.e. targets in relation to taxation, labour mobility, and pensions, compliance with which would allow Member States to access EU funds and fiscal incentives.

