

European network of public employment services

Public employment services are the main agencies executing employment policies that facilitate labour market integration of jobseekers. The European Commission proposed to extend and improve the European network of such services, through, inter alia, cooperation with other labour market stakeholders and adaptation to the challenges related to digitalisation, technological developments in the world of work and to demographic changes. The European Parliament is due to vote at first reading during the November I plenary session on the text agreed in trilogue with the Council.

Background

The European [network](#) of public employment services (PES) was established in [2014](#) to reinforce, through a platform sharing good practices and establishing a mutual learning system, the capacity and effectiveness of PES for a period between June 2014 and December 2020. According to an [evaluation](#) of its implementation, the network has had a positive impact and brought new insights.

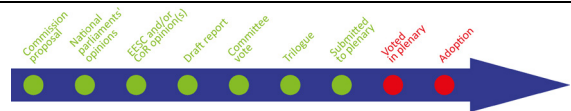
European Commission proposal

On 11 September 2019, the Commission adopted a [proposal](#) to build on the results achieved, foster cooperation between PES and prolong the network's activity until December 2027. PES should be given more opportunities to help develop innovative, evidence-based policies and cooperation with relevant labour-market stakeholders (i.e. other providers of employment services: EU agencies, social partners, non-governmental organisations, regional and local authorities). The network would also integrate instruments such as the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) and the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#). Funding is planned under the Employment and Social Innovation strand in the [European Social Fund+](#) proposal for 2021-2027.

European Parliament position

On 23 June 2020, Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) adopted its [report](#) on the proposal. It stressed the need for increased cooperation between PES, and enhancement of joint initiatives to exchange best practice; for the modernisation of all PES; for reinforced cooperation with social partners and organisations supporting vulnerable groups; and for better consideration of the issues of technological developments in the world of work, the free movement of workers and the circular economy. The network should also actively promote the integration of long-term unemployed and workers with disabilities into the labour market. Following interinstitutional negotiations, a [provisional agreement](#) was reached on 24 September 2020, endorsed by Coreper (for the Council) on 7 October and voted by the EMPL committee on 15 October. It adds prevention of unemployment and the employability of jobseekers to the objectives of the network; emphasises the challenges related to digitalisation and the changing world of work and the integration of the long-term unemployed in the labour market as well as reinforced cooperation with the [Employment Committee](#) (advising the Employment and Social Affairs Council). Following the Parliament's proposal, references to cooperation with PES in third countries, as well as horizontal references to social policies and to social security coordination were added. A reference to the [European Green Deal](#) was also included. The agreed text now needs to be formally approved by Parliament during the November I plenary session.

First-reading report: [2019/0188\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: EMPL; Rapporteur: Manuel Pizarro (S&D, Portugal).



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