

Introductory words by Thomas Händel



Let me start this issue by reminding you that we celebrated Europe Day on 9 May, marking a historical milestone of the European integration. On this special occasion, we take time to look back at the European Union's achievements for peace and unity. While much has been accomplished, our committee and the Parliament as a whole have a determinant role to play in working towards a fair European Union benefiting all citizens.

In the spirit of this celebration, the EMPL committee will meet in two sessions in May. On 24 May, EMPL and FEMM will hold a joint meeting to consider the joint draft report on a labour market favourable for family-work balance.

Afterwards, an exchange of views will take place with Commissioner Thyssen as part of the structured dialogue. In addition, the committee will vote on the report on social dumping in the EU and consider the amendments to the report on the evaluation of the activities, impact and added value of the European Globalisation Fund between 2007 and 2014. Four votes will also be held on opinions on a wide range of topics including the job creation potential of the CAP, the EU Youth Strategy and the EU's trade strategy.

At its meeting of 30 May, a new draft report will be presented to the Members on Protocol to the EC/Switzerland Agreement on the free movement of persons, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU. The issue of the potential of SMEs for growth and employment will be tackled through the consideration of amendments submitted to the draft. Two ongoing reports of the committee will be submitted to a vote: the social inclusion and integration of refugees on the labour market and the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Members will also vote on the draft opinion on the revision of the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Finally, I would like to recall that at the last Plenary session, the report on a Framework Agreement on parental leave was adopted. Besides, an oral question was answered by the Commission on its action to tackle inequalities in order to boost inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the EU.

I thank you for your attention.

Thomas Händel, Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Reports

[Creating labour market conditions favourable to work-life balance](#)

[Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States Activities, impact and added value of EGF 2007-2014](#)

[Protocol to the EC/ Switzerland Agreement on the free movement of persons, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU](#)

[Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee](#)

[Refugees: Social inclusion and integration into the labour market](#)

Opinions

[Budgetary capacity for the Eurozone](#)

[Preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020: Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal](#)

[How can the CAP improve job creation in rural areas?](#)

[Assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015](#)

[A new forward-looking and innovative future strategy on trade and investment](#)

Exchange of views

[Exchange of views, as part of the structured dialogue, with Marianne Thyssen \(Commissioner\)](#)

Meeting dates and venues:

24.5.2016 15.00-18.30 in Brussels, PHS 3C050

30.5.2016 15.00-18.30 in Brussels, JAN 4Q1



Exchange of views as part of the structural dialogue with Commissioner Thyssen

On 24 May EMPL Members will have an exchange of views with Marianne Thyssen (Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility), as part of the annual Structured Dialogue exercise. The exchange of views will focus on the implementation of the Commission Work Programme 2016 as well as the priorities for the forthcoming Commission Work Programme in the field of employment and social affairs.

Creating labour market conditions favourable to work-life balance

Consideration of draft report



This [report](#) drafted jointly with FEMM calls for the recognition of the balance between professional, private and family life as a fundamental right. In this regard, it welcomes the approach of the Commission and invites social partners to participate in the drafting of a

package of measures. In an EU facing demographic challenges, Member-States are invited to take up policies taking into account diverse families and to keep a life cycle approach. Measures of access to employment and affordable care for dependants as well as protection against discrimination are necessary in Member-States. The rapporteur calls on the Commission after its withdrawal of the Maternal Leave Directive to put forward paternity leave and carers leave directives.

Rapporteur: [Tatjana Ždanoka](#) (Greens/EFA, LV)

Guidelines for employment policies of the Member States

Consideration of draft report

This [draft report](#) recalls the importance of providing for an inclusive labour market with fair working conditions. The rapporteur in particular recalls the Europe 2020 objectives that have yet to be reached. The rapporteur regrets that the Council didn't take into account the Parliament's position of July 2015 and calls for social indicators to be included further in the country specific recommendations.



Rapporteur: [Laura Agea](#) (EFDD, IT)

Protocol to the EC/Switzerland Agreement on the free movement of persons, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the EU

Consideration of draft report

As part of the consent procedure, the rapporteur drafted this [recommendation](#) to the Council decision. The rapporteur is in favour of giving the Parliament's consent to this decision.

Rapporteur: [Danuta Jazłowiecka](#) (EPP, PL)

Activities, impact and added value of EGF 2007-2014

Consideration of amendments

This [report](#) was presented in EMPL on April 18, when a deadline for amendments was set. Members tabled 163 amendments which will be discussed at EMPL meeting on 24 May.

Rapporteur: [Marian Harkin](#) (ALDE, IE)

Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee

Adoption of draft report

The [draft report](#) was presented in EMPL on 17 March, when a deadline for tabling amendments was set. Members tabled 183 amendments, which were discussed at EMPL meeting on 26 April. The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs tabled 34 compromise amendments that will be voted on 30 May.

Rapporteur: [Helga Stevens](#) (ECR, BE)

Refugees: Social inclusion and integration into the labour market

Adoption of draft report

The [draft report](#) was presented in EMPL on 16 March, when a deadline for tabling amendments was set. Members tabled 377 amendments, which were discussed at EMPL meeting on 26 April. The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs negotiated 35 compromise amendments that will be voted on 30 May.

Rapporteur: [Brando Benifei](#) (S&D, IT)

Budgetary capacity for the Eurozone

Consideration of draft opinion

This [draft opinion](#) points out the role the successfulness of the Eurozone goes along with an improvement of the well-being of all EU citizens in particular through the labour market and welfare systems. To achieve this, economic stabilizers should include a European unemployment benefit scheme to strengthen EU welfare states. Such a scheme should not be linked to economic conditionality, according to the rapporteur. Besides, the rapporteur advocates for an economic governance of the Eurozone that places more emphasis on social cohesion and economic recovery. Overall, the draft opinion states that a fiscal capacity should allow Member States to achieve the social objectives of EU2020 strategy.



Rapporteur: [Neoklis Sylikiotis](#) (S&D, CY)

Votes on draft opinions

At its meetings in May EMPL votes on the following opinions:

Preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020: Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal

Rapporteur: [Georgi Pirinski](#) (S&D, BG)

Lead committee: BUDG

How can the CAP improve job creation in rural areas?**Rapporteur:** [Paloma López Bermejo](#) (GUE/NGL, ES)

Lead committee: AGRI

Innovative future strategy on trade and investment**Rapporteur:** [Joachim Schuster](#) (S&D, DE)

Lead committee: IMCO

Assessment of the EU Youth Strategy 2013-2015**Rapporteur:** [Tom Vandenkendelaere](#) (EPP, BE)

Lead committee: CULT

Plenary follow-up of EMPL reports

- Framework Agreement on parental leave - European Parliament [own-initiative report](#) adopted on May 12
- Tackling inequalities in order to boost inclusive and sustainable economic growth in the EU- European Parliament [oral question](#) answered on May 11

News from the Agencies**European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)**

In 2014, the rate of early leaving from education and training in the European Union had dropped to 11%, getting even close to the Europe 2020 goal of less than 10%. Several initiatives across have helped to reduce this rate. Cedefop just released a new briefing note on the topic titled Mainstreaming VET policies addressing early leaving from education and training. The briefing analyses the best practices in place in the field of VET and their promotion throughout the European Union. [More.](#)

European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

SMEs are the biggest job providers in Europe as they are responsible for two thirds of job creations. Their potential to create even more is important provided they are evolving in an appropriate business environment. Yet there is still much heterogeneity amongst the vast group of SMEs. This European Restructuring Monitor (ERM) annual report for 2015 explores the features of the most efficient SMEs in terms of job creation, looking at both external and internal factors. [More.](#)

European Training Foundation (ETF)

An external consultation has been launched by the Commission to evaluate the work of the ETF. This consultation comes to support the External Evaluation launched to evaluate the activities of the ETF between 2011 and 2014. A wide target group including all stakeholders and citizens are invited to participate. [More.](#)

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

The DOK Leipzig International Festival for Documentary and Animated Film is taking place this year between October 31st and November 6th. As part of the festival, EU-OSHA will be presenting its Healthy Workplaces Film Award to reward the best documentary or animated film on topics related to work. Submissions are accepted until July 7. [More.](#)

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Meetings online

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Further information

For any further information, please contact the EMPL secretariat at empl-secretariat@ep.europa.eu or visit the [EMPL Committee website](#).

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