

Newsletter - issue XXII - October 2016

Introductory words by Thomas Händel

This month's committee meeting will take place on 12 and 13 October. There will be a hearing on the Posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services, a discussion on the European Parliament Pilot Project on Health and Safety of Older Workers and an exchange of views with the new Chair of the European Network of Public Employment Services. The EMPL Committee will also exchange views with stakeholders on the Amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. Furthermore, the agenda foresees the consideration of the oral questions and motions for resolutions on the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning and on Establishing a Skills Guarantee.



I would also like to inform you that the EMPL Working Group on "Monitoring the implementation of labour market and social reforms in Greece under the Memorandum of Understanding" held its third meeting on 29 September. In this context, the recent reforms of the Greek welfare system were discussed as well as the upcoming negotiations on the reforms of the Greek labour market.

Finally, during the September Plenary session, the following reports and recommendations have been adopted: Creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance; Social dumping in the EU; Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States; How best to harness the job creation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises; The application of the Employment Equality Directive; The activities, impact and added value of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund between 2007 and 2014; Conclusion of a Protocol to the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons, regarding the participation of the Republic of Croatia as a Contracting Party, following its accession to the European Union; Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment and repealing Decision 2003/174/EC. The session also included the Oral question on Minimum income schemes in the EU.

Thank you for your attention.

Thomas Händel, Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Hearing - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

[Posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services](#)

Reports

[Amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work](#)

Opinions

[EGF applications: EE/petroleum and chemicals \(vote\)](#)

[An Aviation Strategy for Europe \(vote\)](#)

[Recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation \(vote\)](#)

[EU options for improving access to medicines \(vote\)](#)

[Investing in jobs and growth - maximising the contribution of European Structural and Investment Funds: an evaluation of the report under Article 16\(3\) of the CPR \(vote\)](#)

[The status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean](#)

[Establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020](#)

Motions for resolutions and oral questions

[European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning](#)

[Establishing a Skills Guarantee](#)

Exchange of views

[European Parliament Pilot Project on Health and Safety of Older Workers](#)

[European Network of Public Employment Services](#)

Meeting dates and venues:

12.10.2016, 9.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30, Brussels, JAN 4Q2

13.10.2016, 9.00-12.30, Brussels, JAN 6Q2

Posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services

Hearing - Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

During this [hearing](#), Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, will present the proposal on a "A targeted revision of the rules on the Posting of Workers". There will be interventions by Mr Ľuboš Blaha, Chair of the European Affairs Committee of the National Council of the Slovak Republic, and by the EMPL Co-rapporteurs, followed by an exchange of views between Members of National Parliaments and of the European Parliament.

Co-rapporteurs: [Elisabeth Morin-Chartier](#) (EPP, FR) and [Agnes Jongerius](#) (S&D, NL)

European Parliament Pilot Project on Health and Safety of Older Workers

Exchange of views

The European Parliament launched this [pilot project](#) to further investigate possible ways of improving the health and safety of older people at work and to ensure better accident prevention for all throughout their working life. The European Commission has delegated the implementation of this project to the [European Agency for Safety and Health at Work](#). The aim of the exchange of views is to present the publications and other outputs produced by the project.

European Network of Public Employment Services (PES)

Exchange of views

During this exchange of views, Fons Leroy, newly appointed Chair of the [PES Network](#), will present the network's activities with particular emphasis on "benchlearning", unemployment and the integration of refugees. The PES network was created following a decision by the Council and the European Parliament to maximise efficiency of public employment services.

Amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work

Exchange of views with stakeholders

This exchange of views will feed into the preparation of the draft report on the Amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. There will be representatives from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Imperial College London, the European Trade Union Institute and BusinessEurope.

Rapporteur: [Marita Ulvskog](#) (S&D, SE)

European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning

Consideration of oral question and motion for resolution

The EMPL Committee's question for oral answer and draft motion for a resolution concern the proposed revision of the European Qualification Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF). The European Parliament and the Council adopted a [Recommendation](#) on the EQF in 2008 with the aim to improve transparency, comparability and portability of people's

qualifications in Europe. As part of its New Skills Agenda, the Commission proposes to revise the system through a revised Council Recommendation.

Rapporteur: [Thomas Händel](#) (Chair, DE)

Establishing a Skills Guarantee

Consideration of oral question and motion for resolution

The EMPL Committee's question for oral answer and draft motion for a resolution concerns the European Commission's initiative to set up a [Skills Guarantee](#), which will allow low-qualified adults to identify their existing skills and acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and/or progress towards an upper secondary qualification or equivalent.

The status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean

Consideration of draft opinion

In his [draft opinion](#), the rapporteur argues that where fisheries



are concerned, fishermen and their organisations, trade unions, and communities should be made an integral part of the decision-making

processes. He suggests making information and support more readily available to fishermen's organisations applying for EU funding. Furthermore, he raises the question of a minimum wage for fishermen and points to the need to promote collective negotiation and bargaining so as to safeguard and enhance the rights of workers in the sector.

Rapporteur: [João Pimenta Lopes](#) (GUE/NGL, PT)

Establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020

Consideration of amendments

The [draft opinion](#) was presented in EMPL on 31 August, when a deadline for tabling amendments was set. Members tabled 242 amendments in addition to the initial 57 ones included in the draft opinion, which will be discussed on 13 October.

Rapporteur: [Csaba Sógor](#) (EPP, RO)

Votes on draft opinions

During its meetings in October, the EMPL Committee will vote on the following opinions:

EGF applications: EE/petroleum and chemicals

Rapporteur: [Thomas Händel](#) (Chair, DE)

Lead committee: BUDG

An Aviation Strategy for Europe

Rapporteur: [Ole Christensen](#) (S&D, DK)

Lead committee: TRAN

Recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation

Rapporteur: [Lynn Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL, IRE)

Lead committee: TRAN

EU options for improving access to medicines**Rapporteur: Joëlle Mélin** (ENF, FR)

Lead committee: ENVI

Investing in jobs and growth - maximising the contribution of European Structural and Investment Funds: an evaluation of the report under Article 16(3) of the CPR**Rapporteur: Georgi Pirinski** (S&D, BG)

Lead committee: REGI

Plenary follow-up of EMPL reports

- EMPL-FEMM Report on creating labour market conditions favourable for work-life balance
- Report on Social dumping in the EU
- Report on the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States
- Report on how best to harness the job creation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises
- Report on the Application of the Employment Equality Directive
- Report on the activities, impact and added value of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund between 2007 and 2014
- Oral question on Minimum income schemes in the EU
- Recommendation on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of a Protocol to the Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons, regarding the participation of the Republic of Croatia as a Contracting Party, following its accession to the European Union
- Recommendation on the draft Council decision on the Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment and repealing Decision 2003/174/EC

Recent studies and briefing notes

- [Study](#) on Skills Development and Employability in Europe: New Skills Agenda for Europe
- [Briefing](#) on A European Pillar of Social Rights: First Reactions
- [In-depth-Analysis](#) on The situation of workers in the collaborative economy

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

According to Cedefop's European skills and jobs survey (ESJ survey), one in five young Europeans are employed in jobs that require a lower level of qualifications than the one they possess. The recently published ESJ survey INSIGHTS No 7 on "EU workforce: overeducated yet underskilled?" shows that the phenomenon of underskilling is just as important. It looks at how these gaps arise when employees' skills are lower than those required to perform their job. [More](#).

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

The new Eurofound report on *Developments in working life in Europe: EurWORK annual review 2015* collects information based on research from Eurofound's network of European correspondents. It is part of a series of annual reviews published by Eurofound and provides an overview of the latest developments in industrial relations and working conditions across the European Union and Norway. [More](#).

European Training Foundation (ETF)

In the framework of the first European Vocational Skills Week, which will take place from 5 to 9 December, the ETF will organise a series of events and workshops, including the 'Getting Organised for Better Qualifications' conference in Brussels on November 23-24. [More](#).

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

The 2016 European Week for Safety and Health at Work will take place from 24 to 28 October. [More](#).

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Twitter

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Meetings online

Watch the Committee meeting live on the [EP website](#). Past meetings are available via the [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speakers.

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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