

Newsletter - issue XXIV - December 2016

Introductory words by Thomas Händel

During the month of December, the EMPL Committee will meet twice. On 5 December, we will hold an exchange of views on the



Greek labour market reforms with Pedro S. Martins, Member of the Expert Group for the review of the Greek labour market institutions. The agenda also foresees the consideration of draft opinions on the so-called European Accessibility Act, the EU flagship initiative on the garment sector and the functioning of franchising in the retail sector.

During the meeting on 8 December, the EMPL Committee will consider draft reports 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' and on the 'European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017'. We will also consider six draft opinions on the discharge 2015 and two on the cross-border exchange and use of works protected by copyright for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.

Moreover, the Committee will vote on the draft report on A European Pillar of Social Rights and on draft opinions related to the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF); the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the EU; the status of fish stocks and the socio-economic situation of the fishing sector in the Mediterranean; and the need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap.

Let me recall that following the Council's formal approval of the conciliation agreement with Parliament, the Chamber approved the EU budget for 2017 during the last part session.

I would like to thank you for your attention throughout the year and look forward to providing you with a new round of EMPL bulletins in January 2017. I would also like to take this opportunity to send you my best wishes for the holiday season.

Thomas Händel, Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Reports

[A European Pillar of Social Rights](#)

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

[European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017](#)

Opinions

[Approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services](#)

[EU flagship initiative on the garment sector](#)

[The functioning of franchising in the retail sector](#)

[EGF application: ES/Comunidad Valenciana automotive \(vote\)](#)

[Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part \(vote\)](#)

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

[The need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap \(vote\)](#)

Discharge 2015

[Cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled](#)

[Permitted uses of works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled and amending Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society](#)

Exchange of views

[Greek labour market reforms](#)

Meeting dates and venues:

5.12.2016, 15.00-18.30, Brussels, JAN 4Q1

8.12.2016, 9.00-12.30 and 14.00-17.30, Brussels, JAN 4Q1

A European Pillar of Social Rights

Vote on draft report

On 8 December, EMPL Members will vote on the [draft report](#) on A European Pillar of Social Rights, which was presented in EMPL on 26 September. Members tabled 1 119 amendments, which were considered at the Committee meeting on 7 November. The Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteurs negotiated a number of compromise amendments.

Rapporteur: [Maria João Rodrigues](#) (S&D, PT)

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

Consideration of draft report



On 8 December, the EMPL Committee will consider 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.

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

European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2017

Consideration of draft report

In her [draft report](#), which will be considered on 8 December, the rapporteur welcomes the fact that the Annual Growth Survey 2017 emphasises the need to ensure social fairness. Among other things, she underlines that the implementation of the Youth Guarantee should be strengthened and encourages Member States to make further efforts in order to reach the Europe 2020 employment rate target of 75%. She also calls on Member States to better align education and training with labour market needs and stresses that insufficient investment in education may undermine Europe's competitive position and the employability of its workforce.

Rapporteur: [Yana Toom](#) (ALDE, EE)

Greek labour market reforms

Exchange of views

On 5 December, EMPL Members will hold an exchange of views on the Greek labour market reforms with Pedro S. Martins, Member of the Expert Group for the Review of the Greek Labour Market Institutions. In particular, he will present the Expert Group's recommendations of 27 September 2016 on the Greek labour market reforms.

Approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States as regards the accessibility requirements for products and services

Consideration of draft opinion

On 5 December, EMPL Members will consider the [draft opinion](#) on the so-called "European Accessibility Act". The proposed

Directive aims to improve the functioning of the internal market by removing barriers created by divergent national legislation through harmonised compulsory accessibility requirements for a list of products and services. In his draft opinion, the rapporteur tabled 230 amendments to the Commission proposal.

Rapporteur: [Ádám Kósa](#) (EPP, HU)

EU flagship initiative on the garment sector

Consideration of draft opinion

In her [draft opinion](#), which will be considered during the EMPL meeting on 5 December, the Rapporteur argues that voluntary initiatives are not adequately addressing issues such as health and safety, wages, social security and working time. She stresses the importance of free trade unions, independent labour inspections and factory-level Occupational Safety and Health policies and action plans. The draft opinion also calls for a platform to share best practice on management/worker training. In order to ensure that responsibility extends throughout the entire supply chain, the draft opinion concludes that the EU should develop a common framework through legislation on mandatory due diligence and supply chain transparency and that information gathered as a result of EU action should be publicly available.

Rapporteur: [Jean Lambert](#) (Greens/EFA, UK)

The functioning of franchising in the retail sector

Consideration of draft opinion



In his [draft opinion](#), which will be considered on 5 December, the rapporteur recalls that franchising is an effective way for people to set up their own business and thus create

employment. He argues that despite this, 100% of the investment comes from the franchisee. Moreover, he notes that the rules on franchising vary greatly from one Member State to another and calls on the Commission and the Member States to implement measures to improve protection of franchisees and their employees while ensuring that the business concerned remains viable.

Rapporteur: [Dominique Martin](#) (ENF, FR)

Discharge 2015

Consideration of draft opinions

In the framework of the annual discharge procedure, the EMPL Committee will consider six draft opinions on 8 December:

- [opinion](#) on the General budget of the EU - European Commission
- [opinion](#) on the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
- [opinion](#) on the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- [opinion](#) on the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
- [opinion](#) on European Training Foundation (ETF)

- [opinion](#) on the report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union Agencies for the financial year 2015: performance, financial management and control

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

Cross-border exchange and use of accessible format copies of works protected by copyright for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled

Consideration of draft opinions

On 8 December, the EMPL Committee will consider two opinions on the Commission proposals for a regulation and a directive dealing with *cross-border exchange and use of accessible format copies of works protected by copyright for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled*. With these proposals, the Commission aims to allow the Union to fulfil an international obligation under the 2013 Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled.

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

Votes on draft opinions

EGF applications: ES/Comunidad Valenciana automotive

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

Lead committee: BUDG

Conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part

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

Lead committee: INTA

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

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

Lead committee: PECH

The need for an EU strategy to end and prevent the Gender Pension Gap

Rapporteur: [Tania González Peñas](#) (GUE/NGL, ES)

Lead committee: FEMM

Recent studies and briefing notes

- [Study](#) on The social and employment situation in Malta
- [Briefing](#) on A European agenda for the collaborative economy
- [At a glance](#) on Establishing a skills guarantee
- [Briefing](#) on the Recognition of professional qualifications in inland navigation
- [Briefing](#) on the Revision of the Europass framework

Contact the editor

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News from the Agencies

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Cedefop will be actively involved in the organisation of the first European Vocational Skills Week, which will take place from 5 to 9 December 2016 with events in Brussels and elsewhere in Member States, EFTA and EU candidate countries. [More](#).

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

Eurofound published the sixth European Working Condition Survey in November. It paints a wide-ranging picture of Europe at work across countries, occupations, sectors and age groups. Its findings highlight actions for policy makers to help them address the challenges facing Europe today. [More](#).

European Training Foundation (ETF)

ETF recently published a [study](#) on 'Skills needs identification and skills matching in South Eastern Europe'. It gives an overview of the current practices and mechanisms on skills needs identification and matching in the six South Eastern European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. In the framework of the European Vocational Skills Week, ETF organises a series of events and workshops, including in partner countries. [More](#).

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

EU-OSHA recently published the report on 'Safer and healthier work at any age: Analysis report of workplace good practices and support needs of enterprises'. It investigates successful and innovative workplace practices for safer and healthier work at any age. Its aim is to provide decision-makers with a better understanding of the practices implemented by companies to address the challenges of an ageing workforce within various national frameworks and circumstances. [More](#).

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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](#).