

Newsletter - issue XXXIX - March 2018

Introductory words by Marita Ulvskog



In March 2018 the EMPL Committee will meet twice. On 21 March, we will consider the amendments to the draft report on the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. In addition, the draft opinion on "Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU: the 7th report of the European

Commission" will be put to the vote. Furthermore, the agenda foresees presentations on assistive technologies for people with disabilities, the general budget of the Union for 2019, and the integration of refugees in Greece, Hungary and Italy.

During the meeting on 27 March, the Committee will vote on the draft report on the protection of workers from exposure to carcinogens and mutagens at work and consider the draft report on work-life balance for parents and carers. Votes will be held on a number of draft opinions, including the implementation of the EU Youth Strategy, the modernisation of education in the EU and the interpretation and implementation of the interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making. Finally, we will consider the draft opinion on the statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises.

During the last plenary session, the reports 'Common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications' (Europass) and 'European Semester for economic policy coordination: employment and social aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2018' were adopted.

Let me also inform you that on 19 March, following the eighth trilogue, MEPs and Council reached an agreement on the revision of the Posting of Workers Directive. It still needs to be approved by COREPER and the EMPL Committee. Before entering into force, the draft directive will need to be approved by Parliament's plenary and the Council.

Thank you for your attention.

Marita Ulvskog, First Vice-Chair, Acting Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Reports

[Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States](#)
[Protection of workers from carcinogens or mutagens at work](#)
[Work-life balance for parents and carers](#)

Opinions

[Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion](#) (vote)
[Implementation report on the EU Youth Strategy](#) (vote)
[Modernisation of education in the EU](#) (vote)
[Interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making](#) (vote)
[Statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises](#)

Exchange of views

[Study on assistive technologies for people with disabilities](#)
[General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections](#)
[Study on the Integration of refugees in Greece, Hungary and Italy](#)

MEETING DATES AND VENUES

21.3.2018, 10.00-12.30 and 14.30-16.00, JAN (4Q2)
27.3.2018, 14.30-18.00, JAN (2Q2)

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Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

Consideration of amendments

On 21 March, EMPL Members will consider the amendments tabled to the draft report on the guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. In his [draft report](#), the Rapporteur suggests approving the Commission proposal with 36 amendments, and Members tabled an additional [143 amendments](#). The vote on the draft report will take place on 25 April.

Rapporteur: [Miroslavs Mitrofanovs](#) (Greens/EFA, LV)

Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work

Adoption of draft report

On 27 March, the EMPL Committee will vote on the [draft report](#)



on the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work. In his draft report, the Rapporteur proposes 22 amendments to the

Commission proposal. In addition, EMPL Members have tabled [97 amendments](#).

Rapporteur: [Claude Rolin](#) (EPP, BE)

Work-life balance for parents and carers

Consideration of draft report

On 27 March, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft



report on work-life balance for parents and carers. The [Commission proposal](#) was presented in the overall framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights and aims to address women's under-representation in the

labour market through higher minimum standards for parental, paternity and carer's leave. In his draft report, the Rapporteur proposes a couple of amendments regarding the pay or allowance level during the various leaves and suggests putting a special emphasis on micro enterprises to take into account their particular specificities and constraints.

Rapporteur: [David Casa](#) (EPP, MT)

Statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises

Consideration of draft opinion

Also on 27 March, EMPL Members will consider the [draft opinion](#) to the JURI legislative initiative report on the statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur highlights the growing importance of social enterprises and their invaluable contribution to continued economic growth in the internal market. He proposes introducing a 'European social label' and calls for the creation of a European online platform for social enterprises, through which they could exchange ideas on setting-up and funding procedures.

Rapporteur: [Heinz K. Becker](#) (EPP, DE)

Assistive technologies for people with disabilities

Study presentation

On 21 March, the [study](#) 'Assistive technologies for people with disabilities' will be presented. Assistive technologies (ATs) are designed to improve the functional capabilities of people with disabilities. The focus in the study is on ATs for three specific disabilities: blindness and visual impairments, deafness and hearing impairments, and autism spectrum disorders.

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections

Presentation by the Commission



On 21 March, representatives of the European Commission will present the ongoing pilot projects and preparatory actions in the areas under the EMPL remit.

Integration of refugees in Greece, Hungary and Italy

Study presentation

Also on 21 March, the [study](#) "Integration of refugees in Greece, Hungary and Italy" will be presented. It provides a comparative analysis of policies and practices to facilitate the labour market integration of beneficiaries of international protection in these three countries, which have been the main destination countries of asylum seekers in 2015/2016.

Votes on draft opinions

During its meetings on 21 and 27 March, the EMPL Committee will vote on the following opinions:

Strengthening economic, social and territorial cohesion in the EU

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

Lead Committee: REGI

Implementation report on the EU Youth Strategy

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

Lead Committee: CULT

Modernisation of education in the EU

Rapporteur: [Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz](#) (EPP, PL)

Lead Committee: CULT

Interinstitutional agreement on Better Law-Making

Rapporteur: [Anthea McIntyre](#) (ECR, UK)

Lead Committees: AFCO and JURI

Recent studies and briefing notes

- The impact of new technologies on the labour market and the social economy - [EPRS study](#)
- What if all technologies were inherently social? - [EPRS podcast](#)
- EU Youth Strategy - [EPRS study](#)
- Transparent and predictable working conditions - [Briefing](#)
- A New Directive On Work-Life Balance - [EPRS podcast](#)

News from the Agencies

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training ([Cedefop](#))

Cedefop has recently issued a new publication concerning the European skills and jobs survey (ESJ), which includes data about around 49.000 adult employees from all EU Member States. It highlights the issue of the so-called 'skills mismatch' and calls on policy-makers to tackle the problem through new approaches, e.g. focusing on continuous learning, sustainable activation and job-task reengineering. [More](#)

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

Eurofound has recently tackled the issue of gender pay gap through a brief blog post, which underlines that, even though the necessity to overcome the pay gap between men and women has been acknowledged by all Member States, on average the latter have only poorly implemented the Recommendation issued with this purpose by the Commission. The article also reviews the first experiments with gender pay reports and audits that have been introduced by a number of 'pioneer' countries, and it concludes by emphasising the lessons to be learned from such experiments. [More](#)

European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

On 15-16 March, ETF organized a two-day event on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). The EQF is a device that helps understand and recognise qualifications issued by different education and training systems and constitutes an important prerequisite for the full enjoyment of the right to free movement within the Union. The event consisted in a gathering of stakeholders from across Europe and the world and was an occasion to reflect on the current state of the EQF as well as on the challenges and opportunities ahead. [More](#)

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

On 8 March, on the occasion of the International Women's Day, EU-OSHA endeavoured to raise awareness about the risks that women face in terms of health and well-being at work. The latter include lower-grade jobs, less mobile careers compared to men, increased likeliness to be involved in repetitive tasks, as well as other gender-specific risks that hinder women's welfare in the workplace. EU-OSHA has thus signed a [Joint Statement](#) together with other EU Agencies, calling for gender equality, equal treatment at work and for a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment and gender-based violence. [More](#)

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