

Newsletter - issue XXXXIII - July 2018

Introductory words by Marita Ulvskog



The next EMPL meeting will take place on 11 and 12 July 2018.

On 11 July, EMPL Members will consider a number of draft reports, namely on "Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work", on "Employment and social policies of the euro area" and on the European

Labour Authority.

Subsequently, the agenda foresees an Exchange of Views with the Austrian Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, concerning the priorities of the newly-established Austrian presidency in the field of Employment and Social Policy.

Members will also vote on two draft questions for oral answer concerning "Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed", as well as on the draft report on "Work-life balance for parents and carers".

Finally, EMPL will consider amendments to the report on "The role of Employee Financial Participation in creating jobs and reactivating the unemployed", and will also consider two draft opinions ("Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law" and "General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections").

On 12 July, instead, Members will have the chance to listen to a presentation on "European Social Fund Plus" by Ms. Andriana Sukova, Deputy Director General at the European Commission's DG EMPL.

Thank you for your attention.

Marita Ulvskog, First Vice-Chair, Acting Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Reports

Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work
Employment and social policies of the euro area
Work-life balance for parents and carers (vote)
Establishing a European Labour Authority
The role of Employee Financial Participation in creating jobs and reactivating the unemployed

Opinions

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law
General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections

Oral questions

Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed (vote)

Exchange of views

Exchange of views with Minister Beate Hartinger-Klein (Austrian Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection)
European Social Fund Plus

MEETING DATES AND VENUES

11.7.2018, 09.00-12.30 and 14.30-18.30,
12.7.2018, 10.30-12.30 - JAN 4Q2

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

Consideration of draft report

On 11 July, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft report on the "Protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work", which tackles in particular 5 carcinogenic chemicals: cadmium, beryllium and their inorganic compounds, arsenic acid, formaldehyde and MOCA (4,4' methylene-bis). In her report, which includes 25 amendments, the Rapporteur focused on ensuring the highest possible protection for workers without imposing too heavy a burden on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The issue of hazardous drugs, including cytotoxic drugs, is also dealt with.

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

Employment and social policies of the euro area

Consideration of draft report

On 11 July, EMPL will consider the draft report on "Employment and social policies of the euro area". The rapporteur acknowledges that the economic conditions are currently favourable, but he also underlines that there is room for improvement. In particular, he underlines the importance of well-functioning social protection systems, sustainable pension systems and skills.

Rapporteur: [Krzysztof Hetman](#) (EPP, PL)

Work-life balance for parents and carers

Adoption of draft report

On 11 July, EMPL members will vote on the draft report on "Work-life balance for parents and carers", which is part of the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights. 660 amendments have been tabled, in addition to 18 amendments of the Rapporteur. In his draft report, the Rapporteur focuses in particular on the levels of pay and allowance envisaged for the different types of leaves, but he also addresses the particular needs of micro enterprises.

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

Establishing a European Labour Authority

Consideration of draft report

On 11 July, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft report titled "Establishing a European Labour Authority". In his draft report, the Rapporteur tabled 46 amendments: he highlighted in particular the importance of providing the Authority with an operational mandate, sufficient powers and a focus on enforcement.

Rapporteur: [Jeroen Lenaers](#) (EPP, NL)

The role of Employee Financial Participation in creating jobs and reactivating the unemployed

Consideration of amendments

On 11 July, EMPL members will consider the amendments tabled to the draft report titled "The role of Employee Financial Participation in creating jobs and reactivating the unemployed". Coordinators appointed a Rapporteur on the file on 21 November, while an exchange of views was held during the EMPL meeting of 7 June. The Report deals with the potential benefits of employee financial participation - e.g. in

the form of share ownership or profit-sharing - in terms of wages, productivity and inequality, among others. 111 amendments have been tabled.

Rapporteur: [Renate Weber](#) (ALDE, RO)

Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law

Consideration of draft opinion

On 11 July, EMPL will consider the draft opinion on the "Protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law". In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur has tabled 14 amendments, stressing the importance of extending protection and of safeguarding the anonymity of whistle-blowers.

Rapporteur: [Neoklis Sylikiotis](#) (GUE/NGL, CY)

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

Consideration of draft opinion

On 11 July, EMPL Members will consider the draft opinion titled "General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019 - all sections". In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur specifies the priorities of the EMPL Committee and rejects reductions to the budgetary programming for the employment, social affairs and inclusion lines. She also underlines the importance of agencies and welcomes the proposal to establish a European Labour Authority.

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

Access to social protection for workers and the self-employed

Adoption of questions for oral answer

On 11 July, the EMPL Committee will vote on two draft questions for oral answer. On 26 April, indeed, EMPL Coordinators decided that the Acting Chair would table two oral questions (one for the Council, one for the Commission) concerning access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.

Exchange of views with Minister Beate Hartinger-Klein (Austrian Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection)

Presentation of the Austrian Presidency priorities in the field of employment and social affairs

On 11 July, EMPL Members will have the chance to listen to a presentation concerning the Priorities of the newly-established Austrian Presidency in the field of Employment and Social Affairs. Such priorities will be presented by Ms. Beate Hartinger-Klein, Austrian Federal Minister for Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection.

European Social Fund Plus

Presentation by the Commission

On 12 July, EMPL Committee will host a presentation concerning the "European Social Fund Plus" by the Deputy Director General Andriana Sukova (European Commission, DG EMPL). After the presentation, Members will have the chance to ask questions.

Recent studies and briefing notes

- New technologies and regional policy: Towards the next cohesion policy framework - [Study](#)
- Social and Employment Policies in Austria - [Study](#)
- European Labour Authority - [Briefing](#)
- Road transport: Enforcement and special provisions for posted workers - [Briefing](#)
- Faith-based actors and the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights - [Briefing](#)

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

On 26 June 2018 Cedefop organized - together with the Bulgarian presidency - the 5th edition of its seminars in cooperation with the rotating EU presidencies. This edition focused on how labour market and skills information systems can inform vocational education and training (VET) or employment policies. The seminar devoted particular attention to the impact of artificial intelligence-based data analytics in this field, and it saw the participation of representatives from EU institutions, the OECD, Permanent Representations in Brussels and private organizations. [More](#)

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

Eurofound has recently published a booklet titled "Towards better living and working conditions: Promoting upward convergence". This document outlines the tools and strategies that Eurofound will use - in the course of the current programming period - in order to fulfil its mandate. In line with the latter, Cedefop will monitor the latest developments and

will provide scientifically sound knowledge to support EU policies for the upward convergence of living and working conditions. [More](#)

European Training Foundation (ETF)

In the occasion of the United Nation's Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day, on 27 June, ETF revisited the Lithuanian 'Export Academy' program, an initiative helping Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) develop the skills needed to 'go global'. In particular, 'Export Academy' is run by Lithuania's business development agency, and it assists SMEs in reaching new markets and boosting exports. It has been recognized by ETF as a good practice in skills development to support the internationalization of businesses. [More](#)

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

EU-OSHA has announced that its Online interactive Risk Assessment (OiRA) tools have been recently integrated by the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies into national legislation on occupational health and safety. OiRA is a platform that allows the creation of sectoral risk assessment tools, with the aim to support employers - especially Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) - to implement risk assessment activities and to comply with legal requirements on the matter. [More](#)

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