

NEWSLETTER - December 2019

INTRODUCTORY WORDS



The next EMPL Committee meeting will take place on 4 December.

We will consider six draft opinions in the framework of the yearly discharge procedure.

Moreover, the European Commission will present

its proposal on enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES). The agenda also foresees a presentation of the OECD study on employability of older people in the EU. Finally, representatives of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will present the agency's work on occupational exposure limits to chemicals.

On 27 November, during the last plenary session, the European Parliament approved the new College of Commissioners. The EMPL Committee will cooperate closely with Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, as well as with Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for An Economy that Works for People, and Helena Dalli, Commissioner for Equality. I would like to congratulate the new Commissioners on their appointment and would like to thank Nicolas Schmit, whose mandate as Member of the European Parliament came to an end, for his contribution to the work of the EMPL Committee.

Thank you for your attention.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová
Chair

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

4 December 2019

09:00 - 12:30

Room: Paul-Henri Spaak (1A002)

MEETING AGENDA

Reports

- Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES)

Opinions

- 2018 discharge: General budget of the EU - European Commission
- 2018 discharge: European Training Foundation (ETF)
- 2018 discharge: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- 2018 discharge: European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- 2018 discharge: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
- Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union agencies for the financial year 2018: performance, financial management and control

Exchanges of views

- OECD study: Employability of older people in the EU
- ECHA's work on occupational exposure limits to chemicals

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REPORTS

Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES)

Presentation by the Commission

Mr Joost de Korte, Director General of the European Commission's DG EMPL, will give EMPL Members an overview of the [proposal](#) for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision No 573/2014/EU on enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES). The proposal aims to reinforce the PES network's capacity, effectiveness and efficiency. It also aims to extend the period of establishment of the Network, which currently ends on 31 December 2020, until 31 December 2027. Mr Johannes Kopf, Chair of the PES network, will also participate in the exchange of views.

Rapporteur: [Manuel Pizarro](#) (S&D)

CONSIDERATIONS

Discharge 2018

Consideration of six draft opinions (see [meeting documents](#))

In the framework of the discharge procedure for the financial year 2018, the EMPL Committee will consider six draft opinions. They concern the:

- General budget of the EU - European Commission
- European Training Foundation (ETF)
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
- Report on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Union agencies for the financial year 2018: performance, financial management and control.



Rapporteur: [Tomáš Zdechovský](#) (EPP)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

OECD study: Employability of older people in the EU

Presentation of a study

Ms Shruti Singh, labour market economist in the Skills and Employment Division of the OECD, will present the recent OECD study on employability of older people to the EMPL Committee. She will give an overview of the related challenges and will make policy recommendations. She will also present a set of international best practices to foster employability, labour demand and incentives to work at an older age.

Presentation of ECHA's work on occupational exposure limits to chemicals

Exchange of views

Bjorn Hansen, Executive Director of the European Chemicals Agency, will present the agency's work on occupational exposure limits to chemicals to EMPL Members. ECHA is the EU's regulatory agency that works for the safe use of chemicals. It implements the EU's chemicals legislation, benefiting human health, the environment as well as innovation and competitiveness in Europe. Representatives of the European Commission will also participate in the exchange of views and present the state of play of the Union's occupational health and safety legislation.

RECENT STUDIES AND BRIEFINGS

- [Commitments made at the hearing of Nicolas Schmit](#)
- [Commitments made at the hearing of Valdis Dombrovskis](#)
- [Commitments made at the hearing of Helena Dalli](#)
- [The European Semester for economic policy coordination: A reflection paper](#)
- [EU contribution to the fight against child poverty](#)
- [The EU farming employment: current challenges and future prospects](#)

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

Cedefop's work was presented at the regional policy dialogue event in Myanmar on 14-15 November 2019. The Regional Cooperation in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (RECOTVET) organised the 10th Regional Policy Dialogue on TVET. Cedefop Head of Department for VET Systems and Institutions Loukas Zahilas delivered a keynote speech and participated in a panel discussion. He presented Cedefop's work on monitoring European policy developments, the experiences from the cooperation with the EU associations of learning providers and the future of VET. [More](#)

European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

On 21 November, to mark its 25th anniversary, the European Training Foundation invited influencers and decision makers involved in education, employment, social affairs and development to celebrate the Foundation's work over the years supporting more than 40 countries in reforming their education and training systems. [More](#)

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

EU-OSHA's new report 'Biological agents at work - what are the health problems they cause and how to address them better?' reviews the scientific literature on specific work-related diseases - such as infectious diseases and allergies - caused by biological agents. It also includes the findings of a survey of experts and an evaluation of systems used by EU Member States to monitor such diseases and exposures. The report provides recommendations for better monitoring practices, prevention strategies and policies. [More](#)

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

Eurofound's Management Board has adopted an ambitious work programme for the year 2020, the last of the current multiannual programme for 2017-2020.

In a landmark meeting, which saw the election of the Chair and Vice-Chairs, the decision by the Management Board reaffirms Eurofound's important role in providing EU-level decision makers, as well as relevant national level policymakers, comparative information to improve the working lives and quality of life of people in Europe. [More](#)

European Labour Authority ([ELA](#))

The European Labour Authority started its activities on 16 October 2019. ELA has the following objectives:

- Facilitate access to information and services to citizens and business about their rights and obligations,
- Facilitate cooperation between Member States in the enforcement of Union law within its scope, including by facilitating concerted and joint inspections, as well as by tackling undeclared work,
- Mediate and facilitate solutions in cases of cross-border disputes.

Further information can be found on the [ELA website](#).

USEFUL LINKS

- [EMPL meeting dates](#)
- [EMPL Committee website](#)
- [Meeting documents](#)