

## NEWSLETTER - February 2020

### INTRODUCTORY WORDS



The EMPL Committee will hold three meetings in February 2020.

The agenda of the meeting on 17 February foresees the presentation of the Eurofound report on in-work poverty in the EU, the consideration of the draft opinion on the

Establishment of the Reform Support Programme and an exchange of views on our opinion to the draft guidelines for the 2021 EU budget with Pierre Larrouturou, general rapporteur of the BUDG Committee for Section III of the EU budget.

On 18 February, we will hold our annual Interparliamentary Committee Meeting with panels on the European Child Guarantee and fair minimum wages.

On 20 February, we will consider the amendments tabled to the draft report on Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services. In addition, there will be votes on the draft report on the European Semester and the draft motion for a resolution on the EU disability strategy post 2020. We will also adopt our opinion on the Guidelines for the 2021 Budget – Section III and thus convey our Committee’s priorities for the 2021 budget to the BUDG Committee.

Following the withdrawal of the UK from the EU, the distribution of seats in the European Parliament and the numerical composition of some committees changed. While the numerical strength of the EMPL Committee with 55 Members remains unchanged, there were some changes in the distribution of seats among the political groups. I welcome the new EMPL Members and look forward to continuing the fruitful cooperation within our Committee.

Thank you for your attention.

**Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová**  
Chair

### MEETING DATE AND VENUE

17.02.2020, 16.00 – 18.30, JAN (6Q2)  
18.02.2020, 17.15 – 19.00 (6Q2)  
20.02.2020, 9.00 – 11.00, PHS (3C050)

### MEETING AGENDA

#### Reports

- Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services
- European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2020

#### Opinions

- Establishment of the Reform Support Programme
- Guidelines for the 2021 Budget - Section III

#### Motion for resolution

- EU disability strategy post 2020

#### Exchanges of views

- Eurofound report on in-work poverty in the EU
- A European Child Guarantee as a tool to fight poverty
- Fair minimum wages

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### VOTES

#### European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2020

Vote on draft report (see [meeting documents](#))

On 20 February, the draft annual report “European Semester

for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2020” will be put to the vote. In her draft report, the Rapporteur welcomes the refocusing of the European Semester by including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the European Green Deal as the basis of the new European growth model. She also addresses problems and challenges related to poverty, inequalities, early school leaving, work-life balance, new forms of work and minimum wage.

Rapporteur: [Klára Dobrev](#) (S&D)

### EU disability strategy post 2020

Vote on draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))



On 20 February, the EMPL Committee will vote on the draft motion for a resolution on the EU disability strategy post 2020. It follows the plenary statement by Commissioner Dalli on 17 December

2019. In view of the approaching expiration of the current strategy, the draft motion for a resolution aims to send a strong message to the Commission to underline the necessity of a new strategy and to point out Parliament’s expectations.

Co-sponsors: [Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová](#) (Chair), [Stelios Kympouropoulos](#) (EPP), [Marc Angel](#) (S&D), [Radka Maxová](#) (Renew), [Katrin Langensiepen](#) (Greens/ELA), [Elżbieta Rafalska](#) (ECR), [José Gusmão](#) (GUE/NGL)

### 2021 Budget - Section III

Exchange of views and vote on draft opinion (in the form of amendments)

On 17 February, we will hold an exchange of views with Pierre Larrourou, general rapporteur of the BUDG Committee for Section III of the 2021 EU budget. On 20 February, we will vote on the draft opinion (in the form of amendments) on the guidelines for the 2021 budget.

Rapporteur: [Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová](#) (ECR)

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Establishment of the Reform Support Programme

Consideration of draft opinion (see [meeting documents](#))

On 17 February, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft opinion to the BUDG-ECON report on the Establishment of the Reform Support Programme. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur proposes 24 amendments. He emphasizes that structural reforms can enhance cohesion, raise productivity, create jobs, encourage investment and ensure sustainable growth.

Rapporteur: [Dragoș Pișlaru](#) (Renew)

### Enhanced cooperation between Public Employment Services (PES)

Consideration of amendments (see [meeting documents](#))

On 20 February, the EMPL Committee will consider the amendments tabled to the draft report on the legislative 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).

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

## EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

### Eurofound report on in-work poverty in the EU

Exchange of views

On 17 February, Daphne Arendt, senior research manager in the social policies unit of Eurofound, will present the Eurofound report on in-work poverty in the EU to EMPL Members. The report describes the development of in-work poverty in the EU since the crisis of 2008, picking up where an earlier Eurofound report on this subject, published in 2010, ended and looks at what countries have done to combat the problem since.

### A European Child Guarantee as a tool to fight poverty

Interparliamentary exchange of views

On 18 February, the EMPL Committee and the Committee on Labour, Retirement System and Social Partnership of the Croatian Parliament, will organise an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting in the framework of the European Parliamentary Week 2020.

During the first exchange of views on “A European Child Guarantee as a tool to fight poverty”, there will be interventions by Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of Democracy and Demography, Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, and Eduardo Barroco de Melo, Member of the Parliament of Portugal. Afterwards, there will be debate between Members of the European Parliament and National Parliaments.

### Fair minimum wages

#### *Interparliamentary exchange of views*

The second exchange of views of the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting will be on fair minimum wages. Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, and Stergiani Biziou, Member of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, will make introductory remarks, followed by an exchange of views between Members of the European and National Parliaments.

### RECENT STUDIES AND BRIEFINGS

- [Towards a new EU gender equality strategy](#)
- [The mental health of workers in the digital era](#)
- [EU Agencies and Conflicts of Interests](#)
- [2019 Annual report on intra-EU labour mobility](#)
- [Report on the activities of the EU Solidarity Fund \(EUSF\) for 2017 and 2018](#)
- [2019 statistical reports on social security coordination](#)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

Cedefop's [ReferNet](#), the network of institutions that provides information on national vocational education and training (VET) systems and policies in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway, welcomed its new and reappointed partners at its 17th annual plenary meeting, which took place in Thessaloniki on 6 and 7 February. [More](#)

#### European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

Harry Anthony Patrinos, the Practice Manager for the Europe and Central Asia region of the World Bank's education global practice, came to the European Training Foundation in 2019 to present [the World Bank's Human Capital Project](#), and a [recent policy research paper](#) Measuring Human Capital (2019) of which he is co-author. [More](#)

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

This year EU-OSHA presents the Healthy Workplaces Film Award together with the [Doctisboa](#) documentary film festival in Lisbon, Portugal. Entries for submission of documentary films are now open. The Award honours the best documentary on a work-related topic with a €5,000 prize and subtitling in a selection of European languages. [More](#)

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

Eurofound's flagship publication 'Challenges and prospects in the EU: Quality of life and public services' is out. It provides a synthesis of the main findings on key topics such as trust in institutions and social cohesion; access to and quality of health and care services; the impact of digitalisation on social services; access to services for young people; and measures aimed at integrating refugees. [More](#)

#### European Labour Authority ([ELA](#))

In order to start carrying out its tasks in the field of “inspections”, ELA will launch a negotiated procedure to conclude a middle value contract to develop the deliverables pertaining to joint and concerted inspections. [More](#)

### USEFUL LINKS

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

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