

## NEWSLETTER - May I 2020

### INTRODUCTORY WORDS



In reaction to the Coronavirus crisis, the European Parliament approved on 17 April 2020 changes to the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) in an urgency procedure. This ensures that food aid and basic material assistance can continue to be delivered **by means of vouchers** to homeless and other people living in poverty for whom such assistance is of even greater importance during the current crisis.

The fact that food aid and material assistance may now be delivered also in the form of vouchers (including in particular non-electronic vouchers upon EP request) is a major improvement since foodbanks and other traditional forms of aid delivery may experience problems in receiving or distributing goods due to lockdowns and social distancing. Material assistance to the most deprived includes food, clothing and other essential items for personal use, e.g. shoes, soap and shampoo. The €3.8 billion Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived was introduced in 2014 as an EU action to alleviate the worst forms of poverty and foster social cohesion in Europe. Around 13 million people benefit from the Fund each year.

Due to the spread of the Coronavirus disease, the [calendar](#) of activities of the European Parliament for the next weeks has been modified. The aim is to allow Parliament to exercise its core functions, while complying with the duty of care for its Members and staff and with a view to protect public health.

In line with this, the EMPL calendar has been updated. The next **remote EMPL Committee meeting will take place on 7 May 2020, 14.30-16.30**. It will be [webstreamed](#).

Discussions will focus on the social and employment impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and on how to help employers and workers to safely return to the workplace. Christa Sedlatschek, Executive Director of EU-OSHA, and Juan

Menéndez-Valdés, Executive Director of Eurofound, will present their Agencies' work in this respect and engage in an exchange of views with EMPL Members.

The social and employment consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic were also discussed during an **extraordinary EMPL Coordinators' video conference** on 21 April 2020 with Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights.

In its [resolution](#) of 17 April 2020 **on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences**, the European Parliament underlined that in addition to the health dimension, the COVID-19 crisis is dramatically affecting workers, employees, the self-employed and SMEs. Therefore, the Commission together with the Member States must take all measures to keep as many jobs as possible and to ensure that the recovery is based on upward social economic convergence, social dialogue and improved social rights and working conditions with targeted measures for those in precarious forms of work. The resolution welcomes in this respect the Commission's new Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency (SURE) proposal and calls for its swift implementation. It also stresses the need to prioritise aid and crisis-mitigation measures for the most vulnerable citizens and recalls that relevant measures need to be in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

You can find further information on the EMPL Committee's current activities and on our next meetings on our [website](#).

Thank you for your attention.

**Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová**  
Chair

### MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Thursday, 7 May 2020, 14.30 – 16.30 (remote meeting)

### MEETING AGENDA

#### Exchanges of views with

- Christa Sedlatschek, Executive Director of EU-OSHA
- Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Executive Director of Eurofound

### EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

#### EU-OSHA activities related to COVID-19

##### *Exchange of views*

Christa Sedlatschek, Executive Director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), will present the recently published EU [guidance](#) for a safe return to the workplace. These non-binding guidelines bring together crucial information for employers and workers in this very important phase of gradual return to work. She will also sketch out other EU-OSHA [activities](#) such as the collection of guidance documents and awareness-raising material.

#### Eurofound activities related to COVID-19

##### *Exchange of views*

Juan Menéndez-Valdés, Executive Director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound), will present two instruments that Eurofound launched to capture the social and employment impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. First, he will present an [online survey](#), including its first findings, which aims to capture the most immediate changes and their social and employment impact. Second, he will present newly collected data on governments' and social partners' responses to COVID-19 as well as examples of company practices in helping employees and employers to deal with the Corona crisis.

### RECENT STUDIES AND BRIEFINGS

- [Special Eurobarometer on Undeclared work in the EU](#)
- [Social Sustainability – Concepts and Benchmarks](#)
- [The Impact of Covid-19 Measures on Democracy, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights in the EU](#)
- [The social and employment situation of Roma communities in Slovakia](#)
- [Gender pay gap in Europe: facts and figures](#)
- [Equal Pay for Equal Work: Binding pay-transparency measures](#)

### NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

Read the [article](#) "Has the coronavirus made us all crowdworkers?".

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

Have a look at the [key indicators](#) on education, skills and employment 2019.

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

Check out the EU-OSHA [guidelines](#) for a safe return to the workplace.

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

Participate in the Eurofound [e-survey](#): Living, working and Covid-19.

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

The ELA Working Group on Inspections held its last [meeting](#) on 27 April 2020.

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### USEFUL LINKS

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