

NEWSLETTER - June I 2020

INTRODUCTORY WORDS



Dear reader,

The next remote EMPL Committee meetings will take place on 11 and 15 June 2020.

The meeting on 11 June will focus on the classification of SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. In this context, the Committee will discuss, and put to the vote, the draft motion for a resolution on the 'Commission Directive amending Annex III to the Biological Agents Directive 2000/54/EC to classify COVID 19 as a biological agent known to infect humans'. Whereas the European Commission proposes to classify SARS-CoV-2 in risk group 3, several political groups call for the virus to be classified in group 4, which they argue would provide a better protection of workers.

On 15 June, we will discuss possible ways to improve the electronic exchange of social security data with Joost Korte, Director General of DG EMPL. In addition, the Committee will hold an exchange of views on the draft opinion on 'A New Industrial Strategy for Europe'.

Let me also inform you that during the next Plenary session, which will take place from 17-19 June 2020, Parliament will hold a debate and adopt a resolution on the European protection of cross-border and seasonal workers in the context of the COVID-19 crisis. The Chamber will also discuss, and vote on, its priorities for a new EU disability strategy post 2020.

As usual, you can follow our Plenary and Committee meetings via webstreaming. Finally, please note that there will be two more EMPL meetings before the summer break: on 22/23 June and on 16 July.

Thank you for your attention.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová
Chair

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Thursday, 11 June 2020, 12:00 - 13:00
(remote meeting)

Monday, 15 June 2020, 16:45-18:45
(remote meeting)

MEETING AGENDA

Motion for Resolution

Amendment to the Biological Agents Directive to classify COVID 19 as a biological agent known to infect humans

Opinion

A New Industrial Strategy for Europe

Exchange of views

Joost Korte, Director General of DG EMPL

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USEFUL LINKS

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

RECENT STUDIES AND BRIEFINGS

- [Impact of coronavirus on EU aid to the most deprived](#)
- Parliament calls for a new [ambitious EU Disability Strategy](#)
- ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. [4th edition](#)

MOTION FOR RESOLUTION

Commission Directive amending Annex III to the Biological Agents Directive 2000/54/EC to classify COVID 19 as a biological agent known to infect humans

Exchange of views and vote (see [meeting documents](#))

On 11 June, under the [regulatory procedure with scrutiny](#) (RPS), the EMPL Committee will hold an exchange of views, followed by a vote, on an objection to the 'Commission Directive amending Annex III to Directive 2000/54/EC as regards the inclusion of SARS-CoV-2 in the list of biological agents known to infect humans and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833'. Through this [update](#) of the Biological Agents Directive, the Commission includes SARS-CoV-2 among the list of biological agents it covers and classifies it as a level-3 hazard, the second most dangerous category of biological agents. The measure was sent with a curtailed delay of one month. The entire parliamentary procedure, including a possible vote in plenary, must be concluded within the one-month scrutiny period. The EMPL Committee will vote on a draft motion for a resolution tabled by several Members objecting the Commission's decision and insisting that SARS-CoV-2 should be classified in risk group 4. [More information](#).

CONSIDERATIONS

A New Industrial Strategy for Europe

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

On 15 June, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft opinion to the ITRE report on 'A New industrial Strategy for Europe'. On 10 March, the European Commission published a new [Strategy](#) to make the EU's industry fit for the transitions towards climate neutrality and digital leadership.

Rapporteur: [Jordi Cañas](#) (Renew)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information

Exchange of views

On 15 June, Joost Korte, Director General of the European Commission's DG EMPL, will participate in an exchange of views with EMPL Members on the state of play of the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) and other related initiatives to improve the electronic exchange of social security data. This could help improve the coordination of social security systems and also be useful in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

The [new issue](#) of "Skillset and match is out."

European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

Participate in the "COVID-19 vs. New Industrial Skills [Survey](#)" until 25 June 2020.

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

Find out [more](#) about "Smart personal protective equipment: intelligent protection for the future".

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

Read the yearbook "[Living and working in Europe 2019](#)".

European Labour Authority ([ELA](#))

Check out ELA's news [here](#).