

NEWSLETTER - July 2020

INTRODUCTORY WORDS



The last EMPL Committee meeting before the summer recess will take place on 16 July 2020.

We will have the pleasure to welcome the German Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr Hubertus Heil, to our Committee, who will present us

the priorities of the German Presidency in the field of employment and social affairs.

The Committee will consider the draft INI reports on 'Employment and social policies of the Euro Area 2020' and on 'Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty'. The agenda also foresees the consideration of the draft opinions on amending the Common Provisions Regulation and on 'A new strategy for European SMEs'. Finally, remote votes will be held on the draft opinions on 'The EU Strategy for Gender Equality' and 'A New Industrial Strategy for Europe'.

Let me also inform you that during last week's plenary session, Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families in the COVID-19 crisis. The Chamber also adopted a [resolution](#) on the proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States. Moreover, MEPs endorsed [three legal acts](#) to reform the road transport sector, which improve drivers' working conditions, set clear rules for the posting of drivers and stop distortion of competition in road transport.

I wish you a nice and relaxing summer break and thank you for your continued interest in the EMPL Committee's work.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová
Chair

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Thursday, 16 July 2020, 10:00-12:00 and 14:30-16:30
Brussels (*remote meeting*)
Room: JAN 6Q2

MEETING AGENDA

Reports

-) Employment and social policies of the Euro Area 2020
-) Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty

Opinions

-) The EU Strategy for Gender Equality (vote)
-) A New Industrial Strategy for Europe (vote)
-) Amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013
-) A new strategy for European SMEs

Exchange of views

-) Programme of the German Council Presidency in the EMPL field

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VOTES

On 16 July, the EMPL Committee will hold remote votes on the following opinions ([see meeting documents](#)):

- J **The EU Strategy for Gender Equality**
Rapporteur: [Eugenia Rodríguez Palop](#) (GUE/NGL)
- J **A New Industrial Strategy for Europe**
Rapporteur: [Jordi Cañes](#) (Renew)

CONSIDERATIONS

Employment and social policies of the Euro Area 2020

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

The EMPL Committee will consider the draft report on 'Employment and social policies of the Euro Area 2020'. In her draft report, the Rapporteur expresses her concern that Member States have made limited or no progress regarding six out of 10 Country Specific Recommendations addressed to them in 2019. She also draws attention to the devastating social effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

Rapporteur: [Klára Dobrev](#) (S&D)

Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty

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

The EMPL Committee will examine the draft INI report on 'Reducing inequalities with a special focus on in-work poverty'. In her draft report, the Rapporteur argues that the Union is confronted with rising inequalities, poverty, declining collective bargaining, an increase in atypical and precarious employment and serious social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. She calls on the Commission and the Member States to counteract these developments in their areas of competence. She also stresses the need for strong and effective collective bargaining systems and a coordinated approach that spans all phases of life and provides a framework that is poverty-proof and ranges from a minimum income to minimum wages and a minimum pension.

Rapporteur: [Özlem Demirel](#) (GUE/NGL)

Amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013

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

EMPL Members will consider the amendments tabled to the draft opinion on Amending [Regulation \(EU\) No 1303/2013](#) as regards exceptional additional resources and implementing arrangements under the Investment for growth and jobs goal to provide assistance for fostering crisis repair in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing a green, digital and resilient recovery of the economy (REACT-EU). The draft opinion includes 10 amendments to the Commission proposal. EMPL Members tabled further 86 amendments.

Rapporteur : [Agnes Jongerius](#) (S&D)

A new strategy for European SMEs

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

EMPL Members will hold an exchange of views on the draft opinion on 'A new strategy for European SMEs'. In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur underlines the decisive contribution of SMEs to innovation, job creation and an inclusive labour market. At the same time, she points out the challenges that SMEs are confronted with, including those that result from the COVID-19 crisis, and proposes measures that can help SMEs to overcome them.

Rapporteur: [Atidzhe Alieva-Veli](#) (Renew)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Programme of the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Exchange of views



Hubertus Heil, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, will present the [programme](#) of the German Council Presidency in the [area of employment and social affairs](#) to EMPL Members. Under the motto

"Together for Europe's recovery", the German Government is putting the focus of its Presidency on overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. It also aims to seek answers to the challenges of the future that need to be addressed now in order to make the Union stronger, more equitable and more sustainable.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

Check out the Cedefop and ETF [discussion paper](#) 'The importance of being vocational: challenges and opportunities for VET in the next decade'.

European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

Find out more about the [report](#) 'Centres of Vocational Excellence: An engine for vocational education and training development'.

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

Read the [discussion paper](#) 'Managing musculoskeletal disorders in the healthcare sector'.

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

Read the [report](#) 'Regulations to address work–life balance in digital flexible working arrangements'.

European Labour Authority ([ELA](#))

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

RECENT STUDIES AND BRIEFINGS

-) [EPRS briefing: The right to disconnect](#)
-) [Covid-19 Newsletter 2: Exit strategy](#)
-) [New Europass platform](#)

USEFUL LINKS

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

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