

NEWSLETTER - August/ September 2020

INTRODUCTORY WORDS



The next EMPL Committee meetings will take place on 31 August/1 September and 7 September.

On 31 August, our Committee will consider the draft reports on 'Introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis' and on 'Access

to decent and affordable housing for all' as well as the draft opinion on 'Establishing a Technical Support Instrument'.

On 1 September, Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission, will present the recent Commission report on the impact of demographic change in Europe. We will vote on the draft opinion on 'REACT-EU' and consider draft oral questions to the Council and the Commission as well as a draft motion for a resolution on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on reinforcing the Youth Guarantee. Moreover, the draft opinions on next year's EU budget and on "Reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments" will be discussed.

On 7 September, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft legislative initiative report on 'the right to disconnect' and the draft opinions on 'New Avenues for Legal Labour Migration' and on 'Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility'. EMPL Members will also exchange views on the amendments tabled to the draft report on 'Employment and social policies of the euro area 2020'. The draft opinion 'Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies' will be put to the vote.

I am pleased to announce that on 1 September from 19.00 to 20.30, EMPL Members are invited to participate in the [online panel](#) 'Together for #MySocialEurope: Let's talk!', which I have the pleasure to co-host with Hubertus Heil, German Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs.

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová
Chair

MEETING DATE AND VENUE

Brussels (remote meetings):

- Monday 31 August 2020, 13.45 - 15.45,
Tuesday 1 September 2020, 10.00 - 12.00
Room: Antall 4Q1
- Monday 7 September 2020, 13.45 - 15.45
Room: Antall 4Q2

MEETING AGENDA

Reports

- Introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis
- Access to decent and affordable housing for all
- The right to disconnect
- Employment and social policies of the euro area 2020

Opinions

- Establishing a Technical Support Instrument
- REACT-EU (vote)
- General budget of the EU for 2021 - all sections
- Reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments
- Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (vote)
- New avenues for legal labour migration
- Establishing a recovery and resilience facility

Motion for a resolution

- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee

Question for oral answer

- Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee

Exchange of views

- Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission

VOTES

The EMPL Committee will hold remote votes on the following opinions (see [meeting documents](#)):

- **REACT-EU (vote on 1 September)**
Rapporteur: [Agnes Jongerius](#) (S&D)
- **Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (vote on 7 September)**
Rapporteur: [Lina Gálvez Muñoz](#) (S&D)

CONSIDERATIONS

Introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis

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

On 31 August, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft report on Amending Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 as regards the introduction of specific measures for addressing the COVID-19 crisis. In her draft report, the Rapporteur supports most of the proposed amendments and makes a couple of additional suggestions.

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

Access to decent and affordable housing for all

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

On 31 August, EMPL Members will discuss the draft report on access to decent and affordable housing for all. In this context, Michaela Kauer, Head of the Brussels Office of the City of Vienna and Coordinator of the Urban Agenda Housing Partnership, will give a presentation to EMPL Members.

Rapporteur: [Kim Van Sparrentak](#) (Greens/EFA)

Establishing a Technical Support Instrument

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

On the same day, EMPL Members will consider the draft opinion to the BUDG-ECON report on 'Establishing a Technical Support Instrument. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur proposes some changes linked to the current context, which highlight the importance of socially responsible, smart, sustainable and inclusive reforms and investments. He also highlights the importance of digitisation across all areas of EU economy and society.

Rapporteur: [Dragoş Pişlaru](#) (Renew)

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee

Consideration of draft oral questions and draft motion for a resolution (see [meeting documents](#))

On 1 September, the EMPL Committee will consider draft oral questions to the Commission and the Council and a draft motion for a resolution on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on 'A Bridge to Jobs - Reinforcing the Youth Guarantee'. The draft motion for a resolution welcomes the changes proposed by the Commission. It also proposes to increase the effective use of funding, reduce administrative costs and improve the monitoring of the Youth Guarantee's long-term effects on the youth unemployment.

Draftsperson: [Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová](#) (Chair)

General budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021 - all sections

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

On 1 September, EMPL Members will discuss the draft opinion on the EU budget for 2021. In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur emphasizes the crucial role of the European Social Fund and other important funds and initiatives in the current Multiannual Financial Framework. The draft opinion also stresses the need for efficient spending.

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

Reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments

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

The draft opinion on 'Reversing demographic trends in EU regions using cohesion policy instruments' will also be discussed on 1 September. In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur calls on Member States to use Cohesion Fund resources, in particular the ERDF and the ESF, to increase the accessibility of public spaces to people with special needs, including persons with disabilities, children and the elderly. She also calls for the greater involvement of ERDF resources in improving transport and telecommunications infrastructure in areas that have high ageing rates, a high proportion of rural areas, and are facing depopulation.

Rapporteur: [Elżbieta Rafalska](#) (ECR)

The right to disconnect

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

The increasing availability and use of digital tools and means of communication for work purposes has many advantages. At the same time, new challenges arise, and workers often become victims of the absence of disconnection from work, which can lead to physical and mental health problems, stress, burnout and anxiety at work. It can also affect the balance between workers' professional and private life. The EMPL Committee is therefore working on a legislative initiative report on the right to disconnect, which will be discussed on 7 September. In his draft report, the Rapporteur suggests introducing safeguards at European level to ensure a minimum level of protection for workers in the new digital world of work and proposes a Directive on the Right to Disconnect, which should apply to all workers and to all sectors of activity, both public and private.

Rapporteur: [Alex Agius Saliba](#) (S&D)

Employment and social policies of the Euro Area 2020

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

On 7 September, the EMPL Committee will consider the amendments tabled to 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)

New Avenues for Legal Labour Migration

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

Also on 7 September, the EMPL Committee will consider the draft opinion to the LIBE report on New avenues for legal labour migration. In her draft opinion, the Rapporteur recalls that, in accordance with Article 79 TFEU, the EU should pursue a migration policy that is aimed at ensuring fair treatment of third-country nationals residing legally in the EU. She considers that labour market and social policy play a crucial role in labour migration and emphasises that demographic change is bringing about increased demand for workers in specific trades and professions, for example in sectors such as care for the elderly and long-term care.

Rapporteur: [Elżbieta Rafalska](#) (ECR)

Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility

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

On 7 September, EMPL Members will discuss the draft opinion to the ECON report on Establishing a Recovery and Resilience Facility. In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur welcomes the Commission proposal and advocates the creation of a pillar, within this Facility, dedicated to reforms and investments designed for the next generation, especially for youth and children. He also proposes extending the scope of the Facility (Article 3) by including additional policy domains.

Rapporteur: [Dragoş Pişlaru](#) (Renew)

EXCHANGES OF VIEWS

Commission report on the impact of demographic change in Europe

On 1 September, Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission, will present the [Commission report](#) on the impact of demographic change in Europe. The report presents the drivers of demographic change and the impact they are having across Europe. It helps identify how the people, regions and communities most affected can best be supported to adapt to changing realities – through crisis, recovery and beyond.

NEWS FROM THE AGENCIES

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

Check out the Cedefop [publication](#) 'Empowering adults through upskilling and reskilling pathways'.

European Training Foundation ([ETF](#))

Find out [more](#) about teachers' experience in Central Asia during the COVID-19 crisis.

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

Read the [brochure](#) 'Digitalisation and occupational safety and health - An EU-OSHA research programme'.

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

- [Policies to Ensure Access to Affordable Housing](#)
- [Employment and social situation in Germany](#)
- [OECD policy brief: Can collective bargaining help close the gender wage gap for women in non-standard jobs?](#)
- [How to make the European Semester more effective and legitimate?](#)

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USEFUL LINKS

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

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