

# EMPL Bulletin



8<sup>th</sup> legislature – issue III, December 2014

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs – European Parliament

## Introductory words by Thomas Händel



EMPL is looking forward to a charged agenda at its meeting on 1-2 December, featuring several discussions with external participants, exchanges of views on reports, votes on opinions and a joint session with the ECON committee.

The Rapporteurs of two important legislative reports, the *Seafarers Directive* and the *EURES* decided to organise discussions with the relevant stakeholders on these legislative proposals in order to share the views of the interested parties with the Members of the committee. Following a similar debate with the stakeholders, the Rapporteur will now present his draft report on the *European Platform on the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work*.

Commissioners Dombrovskis, Moscovici and Thyssen will present the Annual Growth Survey in a joint part of our meeting with the ECON committee. This presentation launches the 5th annual cycle of the European Semester process, in which EMPL, alongside ECON and BUDG committees, has been actively involved since 2011.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership has been high on the EU agenda in the recent months, and now EMPL and INTA Members will have a chance to discuss the employment and social aspects of TTIP with Ignacio Garcia Bercero, Chief Negotiator from the Commission.

EMPL will vote on its opinions on three *EGF applications*, coming from different industrial sectors from Poland, Greece and France, and the committee will vote on the opinion to the *ECB 2013 annual report*.

The Director of the Agency for Fundamental Rights has been invited to this meeting to discuss the issues falling within the mutual remits of the committee and the agency.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the follow-up discussion of the 2014 European Youth Event, which took place in May in Strasbourg, with the participation of 6000 young Europeans raising ideas about the future of Europe. EMPL will be the first committee to host such a follow-up discussion, where Members can directly interact with the participants of the EYE, who will present the key ideas which were developed in connection with fighting youth unemployment.

Thank you for your attention!

Thomas Händel, Chair

## POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

### Reports

[Establishment of a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work](#)

[European network of Employment Services, workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets](#)

[Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on seafarers amending Directives 2008/94/EC, 2009/38/EC, 2002/14/EC, 98/59/EC and 2001/23/EC](#)

### Joint meeting with ECON\*

[Economic Dialogue and exchange of views on the Annual Growth Survey](#)

### Opinions

[European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application EGF/2013/006 PL/Fiat Auto Poland S.A. \(Vote\)](#)

[European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application EGF/2014/013 EL/Odyssefs Fokas, Greece \(Vote\)](#)

[European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application FEM/2013/014 FR/Air France \(Vote\)](#)

[European Central Bank – Annual Report for 2013 \(Vote\)](#)

[Discharge 2013 \(EU General budget, CEDEFOP, ETF, EUROFOUND, EU-OSHA, performance, financial management and control of agencies\)](#)

[European Investment Bank - Annual Report 2013](#)

### Public hearing

[Employment and social aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#)

### Exchanges of views

[EYE2014 - European Youth Event speed hearing](#)

[Director of the Agency for Fundamental Rights \(FRA\)](#)

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### Meeting date and venue:

[1.12.2014 15.00-18.30, 2.12.2014 8.00-12.30 and 15.00-18.30 in Brussels, Paul-Henri Spaak \(3C050\)](#)

[\\* Joint meeting with ECON will take place on 2.12.2014 8.00-10.00 in Brussels, József Antall \(4Q2\)](#)

## European network of Employment Services, workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets (EURES)

### Exchange of views with stakeholders

Freedom of movement is one of the four fundamental freedoms of the EU and a core element of EU citizenship.



EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

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Mobility generates social and economic benefits; increased intra-EU labour mobility will widen employment opportunities for workers and help employers fill job vacancies better and faster. The Commission [proposal](#) aims to enhance access of workers to intra-EU labour mobility support services, thus supporting fair mobility and increasing access to employment opportunities throughout the Union. The aim of this discussion is to hear the views of the different stakeholders on the proposal before the Rapporteur submits his draft report to the committee.

Rapporteur: [Heinz K. Becker](#) (EPP, AT)

## Proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on seafarers amending Directives 2008/94/EC, 2009/38/EC, 2002/14/EC, 98/59/EC and 2001/23/EC

### Exchange of views with stakeholders



The relevant stakeholders were invited to reflect on the Commission's legislative [proposal](#), which aims to improve the rights of seafaring workers aboard vessels flying the flag of one of the 28 EU

Member States by reviewing five directives from the scope of which seafarers have up to now been excluded. During the discussion the Commission will present the legislative proposal to the committee and the stakeholders will inform Members about their views on the proposal. The discussion will also serve as a useful input for the Rapporteur, who will present her draft report to the committee in January.

Rapporteur: [Elisabeth Morin-Chartier](#) (EPP, FR)

## Establishment of a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work

### Consideration of draft report



Following the exchange of views with the European stakeholders on the legislative proposal, the Rapporteur will present his [draft report](#) to the EMPL committee. The Rapporteur draws attention to the complexity of the issue of undeclared work. Furthermore, he believes that the

defining purpose and objective of the new European Platform should be to provide clear added value at EU level to efforts to not only prevent and deter undeclared work but, perhaps even more importantly, to regularize the jobs involved.

Rapporteur: [Georgi Pirinski](#) (S&D, BG)

## Employment and social aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)



### Public hearing

The public hearing is organised jointly with the [INTA](#) committee, with the participation of Ignacio Garcia Bercero, EU Chief Negotiator and representatives

of European stakeholder organisations. The discussion will focus on the state of play of the TTIP negotiations, particularly the impact on labour and social issues. The presentation of the invited parties will be followed by a question and answer session.

## EYE2014 - European Youth Event speed hearing

### Exchange of views with young Europeans



The [European Youth Event 2014](#) (EYE2014) took place in the Strasbourg premises of the Parliament on 9-11 May 2014, serving as a forum to develop ideas and opinions on issues such as youth unemployment, the digital revolution, the future of the EU, sustainability and European values. It was attended by 6,000 young Europeans aged between 16 and 30.

On 2 December 2014, key [ideas](#) developed during the EYE2014 will be presented in the EMPL committee by EYE participants. This discussion is part of the follow-up of the event, aiming to raise the awareness of European policy makers of the hopes and concerns of Europe's youth.

## Annual Growth Survey – exchange of views with Commissioners Dombrovskis, Moscovici and Thyssen

### Joint meeting of ECON and EMPL



The [Annual Growth Survey](#) (AGS) launches the European Semester process by setting out the broad EU economic priorities for the year to come. It is the first step in the annual cycle. The Annual Growth

Survey feeds into national economic and budgetary decisions, which Member States set out in Stability and Convergence Programmes and National Reform Programmes in April. The presentation of the AGS at the meeting of [ECON](#) and EMPL committees provide Members the opportunity to discuss the related issues with Commissioners [Valdis Dombrovskis](#), [Pierre Moscovici](#) and [Marianne Thyssen](#).

## Discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget for the financial year 2013

### Consideration of draft opinions

The discharge procedure of EMPL is principally based on the [Report](#) of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 2013, which was published and presented in the EP on 5 November, which marks also the beginning of the discharge procedure. Besides the [opinion](#) on the implementation of the general budget of the EU, further EMPL opinions cover the discharges of the agencies in EMPL's remit: CEDEFOP, ETF, Eurofound and EU-OSHA, as well as the performance and management of the agencies. The draft opinions will be presented to the committee on 1-2 December.

Draftsperson: [Marian Harkin](#) (ALDE, IE)

## European Investment Bank – Annual Report for 2013

### Consideration of amendments



The [draft opinion](#) was presented in a previous meeting of the EMPL committee, when a deadline for amendments was announced. Members tabled 60 [amendments](#)

to the original text, and this meeting will provide the opportunity to continue the discussion of the issue on the basis of the amendments tabled.

Draftsperson: [David Casa](#) (EPP, MT)

### Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

#### Exchange of views with the Director

[FRA](#) provides the EU institutions and Member States with independent, evidence-based advice on fundamental rights, with the aim to contribute towards ensuring full respect for fundamental rights across the EU. The Director was invited to the EMPL committee present the work of the Agency and more specifically the employment and social policy aspects of the fundamental rights, such as rights of persons with disabilities, equality, non-discrimination and social inclusion.

### Vote on draft opinions

At its meeting on 2 December EMPL votes on the following [draft opinions](#), the discussions on which were held in earlier meetings:

#### Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application EGF/2013/006 PL/Fiat Auto Poland S.A.

Lead committee: BUDG

#### Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application EGF/2014/013 EL/Odysefs Fokas, Greece (Vote)

Lead committee: BUDG

#### Mobilisation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund – application FEM/2013/014 FR/Air France (Vote)

Lead committee: BUDG

#### European Central Bank – Annual Report for 2013 (Vote)

Draftsperson: [David Casa](#) (EPP, MT) – Lead committee: ECON

### News from the Agencies

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

Data, analysis and reports: the Education and training Monitor 2014 – The latest report charting the evolution of education and training systems across Europe and outlining clear policy messages for Member States was adopted by the European Commission on 13 November. The Education and Training Monitor 2014, with Cedefop among the contributors, is the Commission's flagship indicators-based publication. [More.](#)

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

Employment opportunities for people with chronic diseases – Executive summary – Chronic diseases are health problems requiring on-going treatment for a period of years or decades, implying that these diseases are recurrent, long-lasting, persistent and cannot be cured. Though they may or may not be caused (or made worse) by work, chronic diseases can have a serious impact on the working capacities of the people affected. Chronically ill employees often experience great difficulties either staying at work or returning to work after a long period of absence. This report reviews the main definitions and available information on chronic diseases in relation to employment in the EU Member States and Norway. [More.](#)

#### European Training Foundation (ETF)

Youth employability: From policy to results – Policy Leaders' Forum for ministers from Arab Mediterranean countries focused this year on youth employability and the results of the policies. The event was hosted by the ETF in Turin on 20 November 2014. It was the third such meeting since 2011. The purpose of the forums is to facilitate dialogue and peer-learning among policy makers in the field of vocational education and training. They also contribute to the European Commission's policy dialogue with partner countries. [More.](#)

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

Mainstreaming gender into OSH brings business benefits – All workers - men and women - benefit when gender differences are recognised and addressed in OSH. Business benefits from having a healthier, more productive workforce. This report shows that this is being done in a variety of ways, through policy and strategy, research and at the workplace. Those taking action include scientific associations, OSH organisations, equalities organisations, health organisations, employers and trade unions. The cases show a range of initiatives, from comprehensive gender-mainstreaming projects to simple steps that organisations can take to ensure that the OSH of both female and male workers is covered. [More.](#)

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#### Meetings online

Watch the Committee meeting live on the [EP web site](#). Past meetings are available via the [EP Live multimedia library](#) and you can also download the extracts of speakers.

#### Further information

For any further information, please contact the EMPL secretariat at [empl-secretariat@ep.europa.eu](mailto:empl-secretariat@ep.europa.eu) or visit the [EMPL Committee website](#).

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