



**EMPL Coordinators' meeting
24 September 2014, 15:00 - 17:00 hrs
Brussels, P6B054 (in camera)**

RESULTS

26.9.2014

The meeting started at 15:00 hrs and closed at 16:40 hrs. In the Chair: Ms Marita Ulvskog, 1st Vice-Chair, Acting Chair in the absence of Mr Thomas Händel.

Present

EPP	Mrs Jazłowiecka, representative of the EPP Coordinator
S&D	Ms Jutta Steinruck, Coordinator
ECR	Ms Anthea McIntyre, Coordinator
ALDE	Ms Marian Harkin, Coordinator
Greens/EFA	Ms Jean Lambert, Coordinator
EFDD	Ms Laura Agea, Coordinator

Apologies

Mr David Casa, EPP Coordinator, Ms Rina Ronja Kari and Ms Inês Zuber, GUE/NGL Co-Coordinators

1. Chair announcements

The Chair announced that the timing of the hearings, and the preliminary timing of evaluation meetings would be as follows:

Marianne THYSSEN – 1 October, 9h00 - 12h00 in room JAN 4Q2, followed by

an evaluation meeting of EMPL coordinators starting at 13h00 (TBC), with one representative of CULT and FEMM each

Valdis DOMBROVSKIS – 6 October, 14h30 - 17h30 in room JAN 2Q2, followed by

(a) an internal evaluation session of EMPL coordinators at 18h00 (TBC)

(b) the joint evaluation meeting of ECON and EMPL coordinators at 19h00 until up to 20h30 (TBC)

Jyrki KATAINEN – 7 October, 10h00 - 13h00 in room JAN 4Q2, followed by

(a) an internal evaluation session of EMPL coordinators at 13h30 (TBC)

(b) the joint evaluation meeting of ECON, EMPL and ITRE coordinators from 18h00 - 19h00 (TBC), with one representative of TRAN and REGI each.

The Chair informed the Coordinators that the format of the hearings had been confirmed as follows:

The Conference of Presidents decided the following "The distribution of **speaking time** should be done by the Political Groups on the basis of Rule 162 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure. "

The political groups decided that questions should have the following 3-minute format

- Question: 1 minute - Answer: 2 minutes (total 3 minutes)
- The political groups have decided that there would be 45 questions at each hearing.

The political groups have decided that the allocation of Q/A slots shall be as follows:

- 45 questions to be distributed as follows:

45 questions	EPP: 11	S&D: 10	ECR: 5	ALDE: 5	GUE: 4	Greens: 4	EFDD: 4	NI: 2
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2. EMPL Committee work programme for 2014-2015

A) Own-initiative reports

Decision:

The Coordinators

- held an extensive exchange of views
- noted that no more than 6 non-legislative own-initiative reports may be drawn up simultaneously¹
- agreed on the following short-list of topics for non-legislative own-initiative reports (list according to the order in which the proposals were collected, without prejudice to the final order of precedence)
 - The impact of the economic crisis on the labour market with respect to force and skills shortages (EPP) / Creating a competitive EU labour market for the 21 century: matching skills and qualifications with demand and job opportunities (ALDE) - *common title to be proposed jointly by EPP and ALDE*
 - Reform of educational systems in Europe as a way to fight youth unemployment (EPP)
 - Social dumping in Europe (S&D)
 - Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty (S&D, endorsed by EFDD)
 - How best to harness the potential of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), which are an important contributor to growth and employment in the EU? (ECR)
 - Workers representation on board level in Europe (GUE/NGL)
 - The labour and social dimension of TTIP (Greens/EFA)
 - Social entrepreneurship - *common title to be proposed jointly by ECR and ALDE; subject also endorsed by the EPP*
- agreed that the short-list should stand without prejudice to the possibility to react to time-critical Commission documents and other urgencies; noted that the following item fell under this category:
 - Commission Communication on a Green Employment Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy - COM(2014)0446 - In line with rules on own-initiative reports, *"the request for authorisation must be submitted no later than four months after the date on which the document in question was forwarded to*

¹ Article 1(2) of the rules:

http://www.sib.ep.parl.union.eu/SIB/download.do?file=/Documents/10_Recueil/1/1.3/1.3.1/1025459_1_en.pdf

*Parliament*² [The communication was forwarded to Parliament on 7 July 2014].

- **noted the general reservations of the ECR Group as to the procedure**
- **instructed the Chair to finalise the short-list by means of a written procedure so that the authorisation of those 6 own-initiative reports which would be indicated by the political groups as being the most urgent may be sought**
- **noted that the short-list would be subject to further updates as may be decided by the Coordinators at a later stage**
- **held over the decision on legislative own-initiative reports and on implementation reports.**

B) Public hearings

Decision:

The Coordinators

- **held an extensive exchange of views**
- **noted that the deadline for the submission of requests for public hearings to be held in the first half of 2015 had been set for 10 October 2014**
- **agreed that 2 hearings should be held during the first half of 2015 and another 2 hearings during the second half of 2015**
- **agreed on the following short-list of topics for public hearings (list according to the order in which the proposals were collected, without prejudice to the final order of precedence)**
 - Reform of educational systems in Europe as a way to fight youth unemployment (if possible combined with a hearing together with CULT Committee) (EPP)
 - Revision of the EU2020 strategy (S&D)
 - Re-shoring Europe - bringing jobs back to Europe (ECR)
 - Creating a competitive EU labour market for the 21 century: matching skills and qualifications with demand and job opportunities (ALDE)
 - Social dumping in the aviation industry (GUE/NGL) - *on the understanding that the title might be broadened, subject to submission of a revised wording by GUE/NGL*
 - Member States' active labour market policies – good practices with regard to the 3 parts of the Active Inclusion Strategy (adequate income, labour market activation, high-quality public services) (Greens/EFA)

² Article 2(3) of the rules:

http://www.sib.ep.parl.union.eu/SIB/download.do?file=/Documents/10_Recueil/1/1.3/1.3.1/1025459_1_en.pdf

- instructed the Chair to finalise the short-list by means of a written procedure so that the authorisation of those 2 hearings which would be indicated by the political groups as being the most urgent may be sought
- noted that the short-list would be subject to further updates as may be decided by the Coordinators at a later stage.

C) Studies and workshops

Decision:

The decision was postponed

3. A) Joint public hearing on "Employment and social aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)": EMPL-INTA

B) Exchange of views on CETA

[MK]

Decisions:

A) Joint public hearing on "Employment and social aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)": EMPL-INTA

The Coordinators

- approved in principle the joint EMPL-INTA Hearing on Employment and Social Aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
- noted that the exact date of and arrangements for the hearing as well as the draft programme would be proposed to the political groups and to the coordinators for approval, following further discussions at EMPL-INTA secretariat level.

B) Exchange of views on CETA

The Coordinators

- decided to invite the Commission, represented at the most appropriate level, to explain (in an EMPL meeting in October/November) the consequences of the CETA draft agreement on employment and social policies of the EU and of the Member States. This shall be done by means of a letter from the Acting Chair to
 - a) Commissioner DE GUCHT and
 - b) Commissioner ANDOR

4. **EP involvement in Tripartite Social Summit on 24 October 2014**
[CO]

Decision:

The Coordinators mandated the Chair to invite the President of the European Parliament to write to the Chairs of the Tripartite Social Summit (President of the Council, President of the European Commission) to invite an EP representative (who could be the Chair of EMPL or any other MEP deemed to be the most appropriate) as an observer.

5. **Invitation of Mr Morten Kjaerum, Director of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to an EMPL meeting**

[MM]

Decision:

The Coordinators decided to invite Mr Kjaerum to a future EMPL meeting, ideally in November and mandated the Chair to write to him accordingly.

6. **'Cost of Non-Europe' Study from the European Parliamentary Research Service: Unemployment insurance scheme for the Euro Area: The Cost of Non-Europe**

[KS, RS]

Decision:

The Coordinators

- **took a decision of principle to hold a debate in Committee on the *'Cost of Non-Europe' Study from the European Parliamentary Research Service: Unemployment insurance scheme for the Euro Area: The Cost of Non-Europe* in November 2014 in the presence of the authors (EPRS, CEPS, ZEW) and, possibly, other non-reimbursable experts.**
- **instructed the Secretariat to circulate a draft programme for approval by a written procedure.**

7. Appointment of representatives of EMPL to the STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment) Panel

[ZP]

Decision:

The Coordinators

- noted that EMPL was asked to appoint two committee Members to the STOA Panel for two and a half years;
- invited the two biggest groups to nominate one candidate each in the coming days;
- decided that a decision on the procedure for the final confirmation of the two candidates should be taken at their next meeting.

8. EP participation under the framework required by the Article 33.2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

[MM]

Decision:

The Coordinators

- decided that a joint letter from the EMPL and LIBE Chairs should be resent, taking the same line which had been agreed between both committees before the elections and
- agreed that following the sending of that joint letter practical arrangements of the EMPL involvement would be considered at a later Coordinators' meeting.

9. Appointment to the Gender Mainstreaming Network

[MM]

Decision:

The Coordinators

- noted that EMPL had been asked to appoint a Vice-Chair as responsible for implementing gender mainstreaming in the work of the committee for two and a half years.
- agreed to ask the EMPL vice-chairs (S&D, EPP, ALDE) to agree among themselves who should carry out that task and to communicate the name of the vice-chair to the Chair in the coming days.

- decided to take the final decision in the light of that proposal at their next meeting.
10. **Effects on employment in Member States as a result of the Russian embargo - request from the ALDE Group**

[MM]

Decision:

The Coordinators

- held an exchange of views
- noted that the following [Oral Question](#) by the AGRI committee had been on the Plenary agenda on Monday, 15 September: *“Impact on European agriculture of the trade ban on agricultural products and foodstuffs from the EU, imposed by the Russian Federation”*³.
- decided that the issue of 'effects on employment in Member States as a result of the Russian embargo' (with particular attention to the fruit and vegetables sector as well as to downstream industries e.g. food/dairy processing, transport, logistics; inviting the Commission to clarify if the redundant workers of these countries could be helped through the EGF and other existing instruments) should be the subject of an exchange of views with the Commission
- instructed Policy Department A to draw up a briefing on the employment situation as referred to above ahead of the exchange of views.

11. **Petitions**

[MM]

- 11.1 **Petition No. 1335/2013 by Matthieu Guillaume Chatelin (French), on Freedom of movement for severely disabled (AC)**

Decision:

The Coordinators mandated the EMPL Chair to write back to PETI along the following lines:

³ Text of the AGRI OQ in Plenary: “What measures have been taken, or will be taken, by the Commission in response to the crisis in EU agricultural markets caused by the Russian import ban? Is the Commission willing to widen the scope of the proposed measures in view of the market disturbance caused in other sectors?”

- *EMPL could advise PETI to raise the question with LIBE as the issues at stake are within the LIBE remit (notably the residence Directive).*
- *EMPL might address the issue of the application of the unreasonable burden criteria to severely disabled persons in the upcoming Labour Mobility Package, which is foreseen to include the review of Regulation 883/2004 on the coordination of social security systems.*

11.2 Petition No. 1354/2013 by Tina Hansen (Danish) on discrimination in a pension case (ZP)

Decision:

The Coordinators mandated the EMPL Chair to write back to PETI along the following lines:

- *EMPL finds that the approach of fraction pension regarding invalidity benefits and well as pension in general used in Denmark as well as in other EU-countries, has been dealt with by the European Commission as well as the European Ombudsman both questioning whether the fraction pension system applies to EU-law. EMPL might clarify the issue of invalidity benefits and fraction pension in general in the upcoming Labour Mobility Package, ensuring that the principle of subsidiarity is respected.*

11.3 Petition 1082/2013 by Greedo Förster (German) concerning the setting of a minimum wage (RS)

Decision:

The Coordinators mandated the EMPL Chair to write back to PETI along the following lines:

- *EMPL could inform PETI about the (limited) EU competence in the area of labour law.*

11.4 Petition 0918/2013 by Anna Orzechowska (Polish) on discrimination against certain groups of unemployed persons under Polish law (MM)

Decision:

The Coordinators mandated the EMPL Chair to write back to PETI along the following lines:

- *The related provisions of the Employment Equality Directive (Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000) and the most recent report on its application (COM(2014) 2). According to Article 6 of the Directive Member States may provide that differences of treatment on grounds of age shall not constitute discrimination, if they are objectively and reasonably justified by a legitimate aim, including legitimate employment policy, labour market and vocational training objectives, and if the means of achieving that aim are*

appropriate and necessary. Such differences of treatment may include, among others the setting of special conditions on access to employment and vocational training, employment and occupation, for young people, older workers and persons with caring responsibilities in order to promote their vocational integration or ensure their protection.

12. Points for information

12.1 Timetables

None received.

12.2 Outgoing letters

The following letters sent by the Chairman were annexed to the Coordinators' notes:

- Request for authorisation to hold a joint public hearing on “Employment and social aspects of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)” – letter to Jerzy Buzek, Chairman of the Conference of Committee Chairs
- Request to draw up an opinion to the report of the JURI committee on “Single-member private limited liability companies” – letter to President Schulz

12.3 Documents for information

The following documents can be found annexed to the notes:

- Involvement of the European Parliament in the EU exhibition space at the World Expo 2015 in Milan – letter from DG COMM

13. Date of next Coordinators' meeting

The Coordinators

- *decided to hold their next ordinary meeting during the October Session in Strasbourg (date and venue TBC)*
- *mandated the Chair to finalise the decisions on urgent matters on this day's agenda by means of written procedures.*
