

EMPL Bulletin



8th legislature – issue XIV, January 2016

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs – European Parliament

Introductory words by Thomas Händel



The EMPL committee carries on with its agenda in 2016, with three committee meetings taking place this month. The first meeting of the year took place on 11 January, when we had the opportunity to hear Lodewijk Asscher, Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, presenting the programme of the Dutch Presidency in the field of employment and social

affairs, including most importantly the targeted revision of the Posting of Workers Directive, the launching of the Labour Mobility Package and initiatives to expand workers' protection from carcinogens. On the same meeting the Rapporteurs presented their draft reports on the European Semester and the application of the Parental Leave Directive.

The committee meets for the second time this month on 25 January, when we will discuss the draft report on social dumping, in which the Rapporteur makes a number of recommendations in key areas to address the phenomenon of social dumping. At the same meeting we will also discuss an oral question to the Commission on the creation of a Europe with a 'Triple A Social Rating' as proposed by President Juncker.

The third meeting, on 26 January will be dedicated to a discussion with Pier Carlo Padoan, Italian Minister of Economy and Finance, where he will present his proposal for a European Unemployment insurance scheme. This topic has been subject of several debates in Brussels for a while and now it will be interesting to hear it from a different angle, specifically from a Minister of a Member State.

Finally I would like to wish all the readers a happy and successful year and I hope that your respectable attention towards the work of the EMPL committee will continue throughout the year.

Thomas Händel, Chair

POINTS ON THE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Reports

[European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2016](#)

[Report on the application of Council Directive 2010/18/EU of 8 March 2010 implementing the revised Framework Agreement on parental leave concluded by BUSINESSEUROPE, UEAPME, CEEP and ETUC and repealing Directive 96/34/EC](#)

[Social dumping in the European Union](#)

Oral question

[What is Social Triple A?](#)

Opinions

[Poverty: a gender perspective](#)

[Erasmus+ and other tools to foster mobility in VET – a lifelong learning approach \(Vote\)](#)

[New territorial development tools in Cohesion policy 2014-2020: Integrated Territorial Investment \(ITI\) and Community-Led Local Development \(CLLD\) \(Vote\)](#)

[Discharge 2014 \(EU general budget, CEDEFOP, ETF, EUROFOUND, EU-OSHA, performance, financial management and control of agencies\) \(Vote\)](#)

[Gender equality and empowering women in the digital age \(Vote\)](#)

Exchange of views

[Lodewijk Asscher, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, the Netherlands](#)

[Pier Carlo Padoan, Minister of Economy and Finance, Italy](#)

Meeting dates and venues:

11.1.2016 15.00-18.30 in Brussels, József Antall (4Q1)

25.1.2016 15.00-18.30 in Brussels, József Antall (4Q1)

26.1.2016 14.00-15.00 in Brussels, József Antall (4Q2)

The Netherlands Presidency – Lodewijk Asscher, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Social Affairs and Employment

Exchange of views



On 11 January the committee held an exchange of views with Dutch deputy Prime Minister and Minister of social affairs and employment, Lodewijk Asscher, about the Dutch Council Presidency programme in the field of employment and social affairs. The Minister explained that a targeted

revision of the Posting of Workers Directive aimed at the same pay for the same work in the same place of work would be a main priority and he urged the Commission to launch the broader Labour Mobility Package, of which the targeted review will be part, as soon as possible. The Minister also told the committee that combating work-related cancer by expanding workers' protection against a wider range of carcinogens, by amending the carcinogens Directive, and that strategies on poverty reduction would be two further Dutch Presidency priorities. The discussion can be viewed in the [media library](#).



EMPL

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

European unemployment insurance scheme – proposal presented by Minister Pier Carlo Padoan

Exchange of views

On 6 October 2015 the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance released a [paper](#) proposing the set-up of a European unemployment insurance scheme; on the same day, Minister Padoan presented the initiative on the occasion of a lecture at the University of Luxembourg. EMPL committee invited the Minister to present his proposal and discuss it with the Members of the committee on 26 January. The proposal argues that measures to address the social cost of the crisis and enhance citizens' trust in the EU are needed. Adjustments, notably in the labour market, could greatly benefit from a common cyclical unemployment support that would amplify positive spill overs, impact and effectiveness of reforms. In addition, a positive signal on the irreversibility of the common currency would contribute to macroeconomic stability and anchor positive expectations.

European Semester for economic policy coordination: Employment and Social Aspects in the Annual Growth Survey 2016

Consideration of draft report and amendments

The Rapporteur presented her [draft report](#) on 11 January. The Rapporteur highlighted the importance of the social pillar in the European Semester and expressed that greater efforts and structural investments were necessary to reach convergence in the EU. She highlighted that long-term unemployment should be addressed in a new way, paying attention to the individual circumstances and needs. Following the presentation, Members praised the Rapporteur's text and added that the final report should also address pension reforms, minimum wage and more attention should be paid to the recommendations for the euro area. On 25 January, EMPL will discuss the 430 [amendments](#) tabled to the draft report in view of the vote on 17 February.

Rapporteur: [Sofia Ribeiro](#) (EPP, PT)

Application of Council Directive implementing the revised Framework Agreement on parental leave

Consideration of draft report



The committee organised a discussion with stakeholders in November on the [parental leave Directive](#), which discussion served as an input to the [draft report](#), which was

presented in EMPL on 11 January. In her presentation the Rapporteur regretted that in the context of the recently published work-life balance roadmap, the Commission failed to publish a report on the implementation of the parental leave Directive. She also stressed that improved coordination, coherence and accessibility in the Member States' leave systems (maternity, paternity and parental) increases participation levels and overall efficiency. In the discussion,

Members mentioned issues such as the large differences existing between Member States, the need to have clear definitions, the importance of transferability to ensure work life balance and gender equality, as well as the meaning of parental 'leave' vs. parental 'work'. The deadline for amendments was set for 14 January in view of the vote in committee in March.

Rapporteur: [Maria Arena](#) (S&D, BE)

Social dumping in the European Union

Consideration of draft report



In his [draft report](#) the Rapporteur makes a number of recommendations in key areas such as reinforcing controls and coordination between Member States, addressing

regulatory gaps in order to implement the principle of 'equal pay and equal social protection for the same work' and moving towards social convergence. Among other suggestions, the draft report calls on the Commission to submit a proposal for a directive on labour inspection and on Member States to increase the staffing levels and resources of their labour inspectorates and their liaison offices, including the creation of a European body of cross-border labour inspectors. The draft report also includes a section on mobile workers, stressing the need to combating social dumping in the transport industry. The draft report will be discussed in committee on 25 January.

Rapporteur: [Guillaume Balas](#) (S&D, FR)

What is a Social Triple A?

Consideration of an oral question



EMPL committee decided to put forward an oral question to the Commission related to the creation of "triple A social Europe", which was raised by [President Juncker](#) earlier last year. The committee

will discuss the draft text of the oral question on 25 January.

Poverty: a gender perspective

Consideration of draft opinion



The EMPL [draft opinion](#) to the report of the [FEMM](#) committee contains recommendations concerning the gender pay gap, gender discrimination in the workplace, and

desegregation of the workforce. The Rapporteur notes that women are disproportionately and often involuntarily concentrated in precarious work and also adds that women's

economic independence plays a crucial role in their ability to escape situations of domestic violence. The discussion of the text in EMPL will take place on 25 January.

Rapporteur: [Lynn Boylan](#) (GUE/NGL, IE)

Vote on draft opinions

At its meeting in January EMPL votes on the following opinions:

Erasmus+ and other tools to foster mobility in VET – a lifelong learning approach

Rapporteur: [Enrique Calvet Chambon](#) (ALDE, ES)

Lead committee: CULT

New territorial development tools in Cohesion policy 2014-2020: Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI) and Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)

Rapporteur: [Michaela Šojdrová](#) (EPP, CZ)

Lead committee: REGI

Discharge 2014 (6 opinions on the EU general budget, CEDEFOP, ETF, EUROFOUND, EU-OSHA and performance, financial management and control of agencies)

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

Lead committee: CONT

Gender equality and empowering women in the digital age (Vote)

Rapporteur: [Jutta Steinruck](#) (S&D, DE)

Lead committee: FEMM

Plenary follow-up of EMPL reports



- Skills policies for fighting youth unemployment – European Parliament [resolution](#) of 19 January 2016
- EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 – European Parliament [resolution](#) of 25 November 2015
- Reducing inequalities with a special focus on child poverty – European Parliament [resolution](#) of 24 November 2015
- Council recommendation on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market – European Parliament [resolution](#) of 29 October 2015

Recent studies, briefing notes

- Active Inclusion: Stocktaking of the Council Recommendation (2008) – [at a glance](#)
- EU Social and Labour Rights and EU Internal Market Law – [at a glance](#)
- Comparison of the EU Service Offers for the TTIP and TiSA Negotiations - [study](#)

News from the Agencies

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

Maximising skills for jobs and jobs for skills in the era of the robots – More than 130 experts and representatives of governments, social partners, education and training, and the labour market discussed how technology and workplace change impact on skill needs and how to create partnerships to address skill mismatch at Cedefop's high-level conference in Thessaloniki on 7 and 8 December. Findings of Cedefop's European skills and jobs (ESJ) survey, were also discussed at the conference, which featured some world-renowned speakers. [More](#).

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

Social dimension of intra-EU mobility: Impact on public services – Freedom of movement across Member States is one of the core values of the European Union and is closely linked to European citizenship. There is, however, a heated debate in many of the host Member States about the impact of the rising inflow of mobile citizens on their public services. This research project aimed to examine the extent to which mobile citizens from the central and eastern European Member States (the EU10) take up benefits and services in nine host countries. [More](#).

European Training Foundation (ETF)

The case for quality: policy briefing – Technological advancements and the global market economy demands an upskilled, adaptable and mobile workforce. Modernising vocational education and training systems is part of the solution - one that requires a focus on quality assurance. So what is quality assurance in VET systems? Why is it important for the European Training Foundation's 29 partner countries? What are the different approaches to reform? Everything you need to know is available in ETF's latest briefing note. [More](#).

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

Achieving impacts on policy in foresight studies – A new report presents the findings of a project looking at the key factors for the effective transfer of foresight studies' results into policy-making. EU-OSHA's Foresight project looks beyond those workplace risks that are currently 'emerging', to try to anticipate change in the longer term. The types of impacts that can be achieved from foresight studies are outlined, and the key success factors for achieving impacts on policy are identified. [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 or visit the [EMPL Committee website](#).

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