

New Skills Agenda with Commissioners Thyssen and Navracscics

Joint exchange of views with CULT



The Commission will launch the New Skills Agenda in spring 2016. The European Parliament is committed to the Agenda's aim of promoting skills, including the mutual recognition of qualifications, supporting

vocational training and higher education, and reaping the full potential of digital jobs. In order to discuss these issues, EMPL and CULT Committees have invited Commissioners Thyssen and Navracscics to an exchange of views on 18 April 2016. The exchange of views will focus on the package of proposals foreseen for the upcoming New Skills Agenda and the priorities of the 2016 Commission Work Programme in the field of employment and social affairs and its link to culture and education.

Guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States

Consideration and adoption of the draft report

The [draft report](#) on the proposal for a Council decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States will be adopted following the simplified procedure – Rule 50(1) of the Rules of Procedure.

Rapporteur: [Thomas Händel](#) (Chair)

Activities, impact and added value of EGF 2007-2014

Consideration of draft report

This [draft report](#) is based on the Commission's Ex-post evaluation of the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). The Rapporteur will cover the content of Commission documents and aim at assessing the implementation and the outcome of the funded measures in the applicant Member States since the launch of the EGF, taking into account the different provisions of the previous and the current Regulations.

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

How best to harness the job creation potential of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)?

Consideration of draft report

SMEs play a significant role in the development of economic and innovative growth and most importantly job creation. Reducing unemployment, including the youth unemployment, would not be possible without developing and supporting this important



economic sector as small and medium entrepreneurs provide a large majority of employment opportunities on the market. This [draft report](#) observes that the development and support available for SMEs are not the same throughout the EU in terms of country-market contact, national administration activities, the

lack of legal security, and know how in terms of implementing important health, safety and social legislation.

Rapporteur: [Zdzisław Krasnodębski](#) (ECR, PL)

Equal treatment in employment and occupation

Consideration of amendments

The [draft report](#) was presented in EMPL on 17 February, when a deadline for tabling amendments was set. Members tabled 310 [amendments](#), which will be discussed at EMPL meeting on 19 April.

Rapporteur: [Renate Weber](#) (EPP, RO)



Refugees: Social inclusion and integration into the labour market

Consideration of amendments

The [draft report](#) was presented in EMPL on 16 March, when a deadline for tabling amendments was set. Members tabled 377 amendments, to be discussed at EMPL meeting on 26 April.

Rapporteur: [Brando Benifei](#) (S&D, IT)

Workers representation on board level in Europe

Consideration of amendments

The consideration of this [draft report](#) took place in EMPL on 16 March. Members tabled 282 amendments, which will be discussed at EMPL meeting on 26 April.

Rapporteur: [Thomas Händel](#) (Chair)

Implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with special regard to the Concluding Observations of the UN CRPD Committee

Consideration of amendments

This [draft report](#) was presented in EMPL on 17 March, and Members tabled 183 amendments, to be discussed on 26 April.

Rapporteur: [Helga Stevens](#) (ECR, BE)

Preparation of the post-electoral revision of the MFF 2014-2020: Parliament's input ahead of the Commission's proposal

Consideration of draft opinion

In his [draft opinion](#), the Rapporteur aims at analysing the horizontal aspects of the current MFF while also assessing the implementation of the EU annual budgets against developments in employment and social affairs since the conclusion of the agreement on the current MFF.

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

Budgetary Control of financing NGOs

Consideration of draft opinion

The EMPL [draft opinion](#) underlines the challenges that social NGOs face when confronted to public spending while their role remains crucial in particular for the implementation of EU programmes. In order to allow NGOs to play that role, the rapporteur calls on the Commission to ensure their independence and to simplify the access to programmes in

particular within the ESF. Within the simplification required, the rapporteur underlines the necessity to extend operational grants' periods, and treat NGO's funding reports without delay.

Rapporteur: [Tatjana Ždanoka](#) (Green/EFA, LV)

Implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between the EU and the Republic of Korea

Consideration of draft opinion



The EMPL [draft opinion](#) stresses that high labour standards should not be considered trade barriers but rather raise living standards, promote economic growth and stability, create new employment opportunities

and improve the general welfare. The Rapporteur recalls the commitment of the EU and Korea to promote decent work as well as the eradication of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Rapporteur: [Siôn Simon](#) (S&D, UK)

Budget 2017: Mandate for the trilogue

Consideration of draft opinion

In his draft opinion, the Rapporteur emphasises that the 2017 budget has to be key in enhancing the Union's contribution to growth and the creation of jobs. He regrets that the unemployment rate among young people still remains too high and calls on the Commission to provide enough financial support to those programmes targeting youth unemployment.

The Rapporteur stresses that the budget should support programmes creating jobs for those with multiple disadvantages in the labour market, and promote high level of workers' protection and prevention culture.



Rapporteur: [Thomas Händel](#) (Chair)

Postal services directive

Consideration of draft opinion

The EMPL [draft opinion](#) to this report on the application of the Postal Services Directive underlines the effect of digitalisation and new technologies on the postal sector and its great impacts on the job market of the sector. The Rapporteur welcomes the role played by social partners to handle the evolutions of the sector and the efforts made for sectorial dialogue in postal services. However, he recalls that some unfair competition exists at the expense of workers. In order to prevent it, the Rapporteur stresses the need to allow new activities and restructuration of the sector to create jobs and adapt the workers' skills to new needs. Finally, the rapporteur calls on the Commission and the Member states to collect more data and ensure decent working conditions for all workers in postal services.

Rapporteur: [Georges Bach](#) (EPP, LU)

Budget 2017 with the General Rapporteur on Budget

Exchange of views

The General Rapporteur for the 2017 budget, Mr [Jens Geier](#) (S&D, DE), will present the budgetary procedure for the year 2017, together with the recently [adopted report](#) on general guidelines for the preparation of the 2017 budget, Section III – Commission and the [working document](#) on Pilot projects and Preparatory actions in budget 2016 and 2017.

An ESF delegated act by the Commission

Exchange of views

For the purpose of reimbursement of Member States' expenditure by the Commission on the basis of standard scales of unit costs and lump sums, Article 14(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1304/2013 on the European Social Fund empowers the Commission to adopt delegated acts specifying the type of operations covered, the definition of the standard scales of unit costs and lump sums and their maximum amounts. In the annexes to the delegated regulation, standard scales of unit costs are defined for different operational programmes based on a methodology submitted by the Member States concerned.

The integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market with the Committee of the Regions

Exchange of views

In Europe, more than 12 million people have been unemployed for over a year. Despite the economic recovery and signs of improvements in the EU labour market, their number doubled between 2007 and 2014, accounting for about half of the total number of unemployed. Following the adoption of the Council's [Recommendation](#) on the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market, the Committee of regions adopted in February 2016 an [own-initiative opinion](#) on the question. The rapporteur for this opinion M. Enrico Rossi, President of the Tuscany region, will discuss the issue with Members at the EMPL committee's meeting of April 19.

Mainstreaming Employment and Social Indicators into Macroeconomic Surveillance

Presentation of a Policy Department Study

The Policy department will present its [study](#) assessing the importance of employment and social issues within the European Semester. In particular, the use of employment and social indicators applied to the macro surveillance exercises is analysed as well as the role and perceptions of stakeholders. The study finds that the European Semester is undergoing important changes due to the employment and social effects of the crisis. Besides macroeconomic imbalances, the study argues that attention should be paid to growth prospects in the long run and social and employment conditions within EU countries.

Labour Market Integration of Refugees

Presentation of Policy Department Briefings

The briefings cover three aspects of integration policies of refugees: [EU Funding instruments](#), [European networks and platforms](#) as well as lessons learnt and good practices. Some findings from these briefings are that the participation in the

labour market of refugees is the most significant factor of integration and that some good practices can be identified but the exchange of information between Member States is lacking. As a response, the Commission is planning to strengthen the soft EU coordination with an Action Plan on Integration.

Votes on draft opinions

At its meetings in April EMPL votes on the following opinions:

The Single Market Strategy

Rapporteur: [Ulrike Trebesius](#) (ECR, DE)

Lead committee: IMCO

An EU strategy for the Alpine region

Rapporteur: [Jérôme Lavrilleux](#) (EPP, FR)

Lead committee: REGI

Plenary follow-up of EMPL reports



- Meeting the antipoverty target in the light of increasing household costs - European Parliament [own-initiative report](#) on 14 April 2016.
- Autonomous driving - European Parliament [oral question](#) on 14 April 2016.

News from the Agencies

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

In a new series of articles based on insights from the [European skills and jobs \(ESJ\) survey](#), Cedefop investigates the performance of skills development in organisations with varied learning opportunities and long term perspectives. According to a Cedefop expert, "workers bring to the job knowledge, skills and competence and their personal attitudes to learning. When workers are placed in a stable organisational environment with challenging jobs and opportunities to learn, skills will develop." [More](#).

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

Eurofound will organize together with the European Parliament a working lunch on 27 April on "Preventing trafficking of labour:

Labour market intermediaries and social partners' role". Ms Ulvskog, Vice-Chair of the EMPL Committee, will host the event. Ahead of the adoption by the Commission of the Labour Mobility Package, this lunch will be the occasion to debate on the issues of trafficking of labour by fraudulent Labour Market Intermediaries. This discussion will be framed by the Eurofound's comparative analysis on "The regulation of labour market intermediaries and the role of social partners in preventing trafficking of labour", carried out on the request of Commission's DG HOME within the framework of the EU Anti-trafficking Strategy. [More](#).

European Training Foundation (ETF)

The European Training Foundation in coordination with the EU Delegation to Serbia organized an event in Belgrade gathering policy makers, educators and business leaders. The aim of this event is to advance vocational education and training, qualifications and the skills agenda in Serbia. In line with this, ETF published a case study on digital and online learning in vocational education and training in Serbia. [More](#)

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

In order to launch its 2016-2017 Healthy Workplaces for All Ages Campaign, EU-OSHA will host a Campaign Launch Press Conference on 14 April. The 2016-2017 campaign stresses that safe and healthy working conditions during the whole working life benefit workers, businesses and society.

Four main objectives are set for the campaign: promoting sustainable work and healthy ageing in the working life, preventing health problems, providing tools for employers and workers to manage safety and health of ageing workers and finally encourage the exchange of information and good practice. [More](#).

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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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