



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

EMPL COORDINATORS

Meeting of 18 March 2021 11:30 - 12:30 hrs

Room: ANTALL 4Q2 and via Interactio remotely

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1. Chair's announcements

1.1.Interpretation languages (JK)

Interpretation was provided in: FR DE IT EN PL

1.2.1.2. List of EMPL Coordinators

(For information)

(New numbers as of 1st February 2020.)

EMPL Coordinators/Deputies							
EPP (15)	Dennis Radtke Sara Skyttedal						
S&D (12)	Agnes Jongerius	Agnes Jongerius					
RE (8)	Dragoş Pîslaru	Yîslaru Sylvie Brunet					
ID (6)	France Jamet	Elena Lizzi (representing ID on 18.03					
Greens/EFA (4)	Kira Marie Peter-Hansen	Katrin Langensiepen					
ECR (5)	Elżbieta Rafalska	Helmut Geuking					
GUE/NGL (4)	Nikolaj Villumsen						

Please note that the above *order* of political groups reflects their strength in the Chamber, not in the committee.¹

The Coordinators warmly thanked Philine Scholze, Berta Halmos and Henrik Andersen work as Greens and the Left advisor and wished them all the best in their new positions. They welcome Jozef Ksinan as advisor to the Chair, replaing Andrea Majernikova (on maternity leave)

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/search/table

Exchanges of views/Decisions:

2.0 Admissibility of amendments proposed by the Rapporteur for the 4th revision of the Directive on carcinogens and mutagens at work (CMD4) - ad-hoc item

On 18 March morning, objections were raised on the vote on compromise amendments proposed by the Rapporteur for the CMD 4 file being held.

The Chair decided to consult Coordinators.

Coordinators representing a majority (EPP, S&D, RE, Greens/EFA, the Left) decided that the Chair should rule those compromise amendments inadmissible.

2. Follow-up of previous decisions

2.1. Update on issue of staffing of Committee Secretariats [EC]

With the participation of MEP Damian BOESELAGER, Rapporteur on the European Parliament's budget in 2022

The Coordinators held an exchange of views with Mr BOESELAGER, Rapporteur on the European Parliament's budget in 2022, on Parliament's preliminary draft estimates for the budget 2022, including as regards the staffing situation in committee secretariats. The Chair:

- recalled that EMPL Coordinators are particularly receptive to all issues relating to working conditions and workers' rights;
- recalled that, mandated by EMPL coordinators, she was therefore the first to draw CCC attention to the alarming situation of the Secretariats staff in October 2020;
- Recalled that the COVID crisis has taken a heavy toll among parents working in Secretariats, and that it was worsened with the creation of 5 new (special, sub and temporary) Committees without, initially, other staffing plan than redeployment from standing Committee, and that she had conveyed EMPL concerns about this issue already in Spring 2020.
- expressed full support the proposal to add 66 posts specifically for Committee Secretariats
- But also highlighted more structural problems:
 - Deplored that only about 8% of EP staff work in Committee Secretariats while Committee work if the backbone of the EP work.
 - Called for a thorough reflection on whether it is acceptable less than 10% of the human resources can carry out most of the administrative tasks linked to the parliamentary work.
 - Highlighted that in 2020 the situation was difficult especially for mothers and pregnant women working in secretariats, both administrators and assistants.
 - Emphasized in particular that it is not acceptable that, in Committee Secretariats, not all staff on maternity/parental/sick or long-term leaves are replaced and recalled that there are currently 4 cases in EMPL Secretariat

- Regretted that it contradicts all EP values and messages on gender equality, work-life balance etc., and recalled that that the EP should lead by example and ensure and respect decent working conditions for all (secretariat staff, advisors, APAs) in those difficult times.
- Recalled that the current staffing situation has also an adverse impact on the quality of Committee work.
- o Deplored that EP sometimes needs up to 6 months to have a vacant post filled
- Emphasized that contractual agents are of a great help in proper staffing of secretariat by replacing colleagues on long-term leaves.
- Acknowledged that DG Ipol was able to hire only 33 contractual agents in 2020, but pointed out that this is not sufficient given the need to replace parental/maternity/longterm leaves.
- Asked for clarification on the possibility to get contractual agents in 2021, for administrators and assistants, so that finally all maternity/parental/sick leaves or long leaves are adequately (and timely) compensated.
- Finally recommended that the Coordinators advocate within their respective groups for the decoupling of the issue of the additional staffing for Committee Secretariat from the two other proposal on staffing (additional posts for political groups and increase of the APA envelope).

2.2. Update on the hearings [CK, JB, MP, SM, EC]

The Coordinators:

- 1. Took note of the state-of-play
- 2. Were invited to communicate to the EMPL Secretariat by 25 March cob their proposals of experts to be invited for the hearing on "Amazon attacks on fundamental rights and freedom: the right to organize and collective action"
- 3. Were invited to respond to the consultation on AIDA and EMPL joint hearing on "AI and Labour Market: challenges and opportunities, future of work" by 25 March cob
- 4. Were invited to communicate to the EMPL Secretariat by 25 March cob their proposals of experts to be invited for FEMM hearing on various aspects of women in poverty following the COVID impact

A selection table will be prepared afterwards so that the speakers can be chosen by written procedure.

2.3. Update on exchanges of views

The Coordinators took note of the state-of-play and decided, in view of the timing constraints, not to invite any speaker in addition to those already selected.

2.4. Update on working methods during Business continuity [EC]

The Coordinators took note of best practices on working methods during business continuity collected by the CCC Secretariat from Committees. During the exchange of views, they endorsed the Chair proposals ahead of the next CCC and thanked her for passing on EMPL messages in the CCC. They recalled that the current situation is particularly difficult for the staff (secretariat, group advisors, APAs). They agreed that EMPL should continue be at the

forefront of the debate and that the issue of working method during business continuity (and staffing) is pushed further at political level.

2.5. Update - Possible EMPL Resolution and Oral Question on the introduction of a European Social Security number [JB]

The Coordinators exchanged views on the procedure and timetable.

The Coordinators:

- Endorsed the proposal that EMPL tables an Oral Question with resolution
- Confirmed that the OQ and resolution would be prepared under the leadership of the Left group (with in addition one 'co-sponsor' to be appointed by each group)
- Agreed that the work on the OQ and resolution starts already but decided that the vote would not take place before May
- Took note that the following limitations as to the length of texts apply:
 - o Oral Questions: 25 lines:
 - \circ Draft motions for resolutions: 4 pages, including recitals but excluding citations^[1]
- 2.6. Commission Directive (EU) 2020/739 of 3 June 2020 amending Annex III to Directive 2000/54/EC as regards the inclusion of SARS-CoV-2 in the list of biological agents known to infect humans and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2019/1833: the follow-up on the Commission statement (CK/EC)

The Coordinators held an exchange of views and decided:

- 1. as a first step to mandate the Chair to send a letter to Commissioner Schmit, requesting an update on the state-of-play and for a more thorough analysis;
- 2. to possibly organise an exchange of views as a second step (depending on the reply of the Commission)

3. Cooperation pursuant to Rules 56+/57/58 - state of play

(As appropriate, to be followed up by information emails to all the groups, coordinators, rapporteurs & shadows)

3.1.EMPL request for rule 57 on FEMM report "Equality between men and women" (TV)

(See also point 5.1.2 below)

 $^{^{\}left[1\right]}$ A page shall be taken to mean a text of 1 500 characters (excluding spaces).

The Coordinators took note of the state of play and deplored the decision of the Conference of President to dismiss EMPL request for rule 57, despite the efforts of and the arguments put forward by the Chair.

3.2. Pay transparency [JB/TV]

(see also point 5.1.1 below)

Coordinators:

- discussed the options for cooperation with the FEMM Committee on this file.
- mandated the Chair to ask for a joint committee procedure under rule 58.

4. Appointment of EMPL Standing Rapporteur on EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement [ABR/SM]

The papers for the meeting include the letter sent by Mr TAJANI to President SASSOLI.

POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING

5. Allocation of reports and opinions

The papers for the meeting include an overview of pending INIS, INL and implementation reports

5.1. Decisions on new reports and opinions

Reports	
None	
Opinions	

5.1.1. Strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms [JB]

EMPL/9/05523 - 2021/0050(COD)

See point 3.2

Decision: Rapporteur to be appointed by the Greens-EFA group.

5.1.2. Equality between women and men in the European Union in 2018-2020 [TV] EMPL/9/05512 - 2021/2020(INI)

Decision (written procedure): no opinion

5.1.3. Budgetary opinion

See also point 10 below (tentative timetable)

POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING

5.1.4. Amending Directive (EU) 2017/2397 as regards the transitional measures for the recognition of third countries certificates [MM]

EMPL/9/05428 - 2021/0039(COD)

Decision (written procedure): no opinion

5.1.5. The shrinking space of civil society in Europe [SM]

POSTPONED TO THE NEXT MEETING

5.2. Possible launch of new own-initiative/implementation reports [EC]

Decision (written procedure): item postponed to the next meeting

6. Proposal for an EMPL resolution on the Child Guarantee - suggestion by the S&D group [MP]

Decision (written procedure): EMPL initiative, adoption of OQ to Council and Commission in the EMPL Committee on 25 March, adoption of the EMPL motion for a resolution on 19 April, requesting plenary debate resolution for the April session.

7. Motions for Resolutions² - decision on procedure [ABR]

None

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² Rule 143 - Motions for resolutions

^{1.} Any Member may table a motion for a resolution on a matter falling within the spheres of activity of the European Union. That motion may not be more than 200 words long.

^{2.} Such a motion may not:

⁻ contain any decision on matters for which other specific procedures and competences are laid down in these Rules of Procedure, in particular Rule 47, or

⁻ deal with the subject of ongoing proceedings in Parliament.

^{3.} Each Member may table no more than one such motion per month.

^{4.} The motion for a resolution shall be submitted to the President, who shall verify whether it fulfils the applicable criteria. If the President declares the motion to be admissible, he or she shall announce it in plenary and refer it to the committee responsible.

^{5.} The committee responsible shall decide what procedure is to be followed, which may include the combination of the motion for a resolution with other motions for a resolution or with reports; the adoption of an opinion, which may take the form of a letter; or the drawing up of a report under Rule 54. The committee responsible may also decide not to follow up the motion for a resolution.

8. Petitions received for decision (see the annexes): [MP/NH]

None

6. The authors of a motion for a resolution shall be informed of the decisions of the President, of the committee and of the Conference of Presidents.

^{7.} The report referred to in paragraph 5 shall contain the text of the motion for a resolution.

^{8.} Opinions in the form of a letter referred to in paragraph 5 that are addressed to other institutions of the European Union shall be forwarded to them by the President.

^{9.} A motion for a resolution tabled in accordance with paragraph 1 may be withdrawn by its author or authors or by its first signatory before the committee responsible has decided, in accordance with paragraph 5, to draw up a report on it. Once that motion for a resolution has been thus taken over by the committee responsible, only that committee shall have the power to withdraw it. The committee responsible shall retain that power of withdrawal until the opening of the final vote in plenary.

Points for decision without debate

As no Coordinator explicitly asked for an exchange of views, the actions proposed in this section were deemed adopted

9. Invitation of EESC Rapporteur to the next Coordinators meeting (ABR)

Background

The new President of the Employment, Social affairs and Citizenship (SOC) section of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Mr Laurentiu PLOSCEANU, would like to set up a virtual meeting with the Chair of EMPL Committee, Ms Duriš Nicholsonová, in the next weeks in order to exchange on mutual priorities and strengthen further cooperation.

The EMPL Chair would like to extend the invitation to the Coordinators and to hold a brief exchange of views with Mr. Plosceanu during the next Coordinators meeting Tuesday 13 April, 16:45-18:15.

Given the current workload of the Coordinators and the limited duration of Coordinators' meetings, it was suggested that the Chair could meet the SOC Chair bilaterally.

10. 2022 Budgetary procedure [EC/NH]

The papers for the meeting include:
Draft calendar key dates - budget 2022
A letter from the Chair to CCC and BUDG Chair
A letter from the BUDG Chair to EMPL Chair
Council conclusions on the budgetary guidelines

10.1. BUDGET 2021 section III (Commission) - opinion and budgetary Amendments

The Coordinators took note of the tentative/provisional timetable

Timetable					
17 March Adoption of EP Guidelines (Section III) in BUDG committee					
	Presentation of WD on pilot projects and preparatory actions (PP-PAs) in BUDG committee				
TBC	Exchange of view with the General Rapporteur for 2022 Budget (tbc)				
Around mid-June	Draft opinion ready				

Mid-July	Consideration draft opinion in EMPL				
14 July TBC	COREPER adoption of Council's position				
15 July, noon (tbc)	Deadline for amendments in EMPL				
	• amendments to the draft opinion (in AT4AM)				
	• budgetary AMs (by email)				
End August	Possible technical/shadows meetings				
1st September morning	Vote EMPL (<u>budgetary AMs</u>)				
2 September, 12h	Deadline for tabling budgetary AMs:				
	by individual Members to BUDG				
	• by Committees and MEPs (36 signatures) to plenary				
Date TBC September	Vote EMPL (<u>AMs to the draft opinion</u>)				
10 September - 12h	Deadline for tabling budgetary amendments by groups to Plenary				
Week 40- 28-30 September	BUDG vote on budgetary amendments				
12 October	Adoption of the budgetary resolution in BUDG Committee				
21 October	Adoption of Parliament's reading				

Note: the Rapporteur, shadow Rappporteurs and Coordinators will be informed of any update from BUDG on the timetable and resulting revision of the EMPL timetable.

10.2. Pilot projects/Preparatory actions proposals for the budget 2019

Annex:

- Overview of PPs/PAS proposed by EMPL Members for the budget 2021
- Commission interim report on PPs/PAs

Coordinators:

- Took note of the tentative/provisional timetable
- Confirmed that they want to continue with the past EMPL practice

Timetable						
Presentation by the Commission on ongoing Pilot Projects/Preparatory Actions in EMPL meeting						
13 April, noon Deadline for transmission to EMPL SECRETARIAT of preliminary proposals of PPs/PAs						

Timetable						
16 April, noon	Deadline for transmission by Committees' Secretariats (and by Members ³) of a preliminary list of PP/PAs to BUDG					
End June (tbc)	Result of the Commission's assessment will be available					
Week 29: 14-15 July	14-15 Possible shadows meeting					
16 July, noon (tbc)	Deadline for Members to table PPs/PAS <u>as budgetary AMs</u> (by email, and preferably in EN)					
1st September morning (tbc)	Vote EMPL (budgetary AMs including PPs/PAs)					
2 September, 12h	Deadline for tabling budgetary AMs: • by individual Members to BUDG • by Committees and MEPs (36 signatures) to plenary					
9 September - 12h	Deadline for tabling budgetary amendments by groups to Plenary					
11 October	Adoption of budgetary resolution (all sections) in BUDG committee					

Note: the Rapporteur and Coordinators will be informed of any update from BUDG on the timetable applicable for the EMPL contributions.

11. Stoa [EC]

Coordinators confirmed that Ms Alieva-Veli can replace Ms Toom as the third EMPL representative to STOA.

12. "Pathway to fast tracking the second reading procedure in committee for the MFF files" (MP)

• Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund for displaced workers (EGF) (2018/0202(COD))

On behalf of the EMPL Committee Chair Ms NICHOLSONOVÁ and the EP Rapporteur Ms BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ and in view of the view to the political importance of the regulation, we would like to propose a fast track second reading procedure of the European Parliament. Since the EMPL Committee approval of the provisional agreement, the file was subject to legal-linguistic finalisation of the lawyer-linguists of Parliament and the Council. The scheduled timeline is as follows:

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³ EMPL Members who send their PPs/PAs directly to BUDG Secretariat must find a co-sponsor who is BUDG Member (full or substitute)

- Council first reading adoption on 19 April
- Following the receipt of the Council reading, the file will be announced on the Monday of the April Plenary Session 26-29 April. The plenary announcement marks the start of the Treaty second reading deadline.
- EMPL Committee vote on a recommendation for second reading on Monday, 26 April in the evening. Following the EMPL Chair letter to the Portuguese Presidency and commitment for recommendation to the plenary that the Council's position is accepted without amendments, we will recommend not to open deadline for committee amendments. For more information on the procedure please refer to Rules 65, 67 and 68 (2) and 69 of the Rules of Procedure. EMPL Committee meeting without interpretation view to the derogation needed for holding the committee meeting during the plenary session
- Plenary vote will be scheduled on Wednesday 28 April
- Presidents of Parliament and the Council sign the approved text at a signing ceremony known as LEX by end of the same week, followed by publication in the Official Journal.

Coordinators endorsed the above described fast track second reading adoption

• Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Social Fund Plus (ESF + (2018/0206(COD))

On behalf of the EMPL Committee Chair Ms NICHOLSONOVÁ and the EP Rapporteur Mr CASA and in view of the view to the political importance of the regulation, we would like to propose a fast track second reading procedure of the European Parliament. Since the EMPL Committee approval of the provisional agreement, the file is subject to legal-linguistic finalisation of the lawyer-linguists of Parliament and the Council. The scheduled timeline is as follows:

- Council first reading adoption end of May
- Following the receipt of the Council reading, the file will be announced on the Monday of the June Plenary Session 7-10 June. The plenary announcement marks the start of the Treaty second reading deadline.
- EMPL Committee vote on a recommendation for second reading on Monday 7 June in the evening. Following the EMPL Chair letter to the Portuguese Presidency and commitment for recommendation to the plenary that the Council's position is accepted without amendments, we will recommend not to open deadline for committee amendments. For more information on the procedure please refer to Rules 65, 67 and 68 (2) and 69 of the Rules of Procedure. EMPL Committee meeting without interpretation view to the derogation needed for holding the committee meeting during the plenary session
- Plenary vote will be scheduled on Wednesday 9 June
- Presidents of Parliament and the Council sign the approved text at a signing ceremony known as LEX by end of the same week, followed by publication in the Official Journal.

Coordinators are endorsed the above described fast track second reading adoption

Items for information

Coordinators took note of the information provided in this section

13.RRF Working Group [TV]

The papers for the meeting include the CoP decision

Background

On 4 March, the Conference of Presidents took note of the proposal from the ECON and BUDG committees to establish a standing working group of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Budgets (BUDG) for the scrutiny of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

The standing working group:

- > shall be established as the operational format for the recovery and resilience dialogue set out in Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241;
- > shall be composed of 27 Members, including the Chairs of the BUDG and ECON Committees, appointed by the political groups

The political groups:

- > should ensure that at least one Member of each of the associated committees for the RRF Regulation (EMPL, ENVI, ITRE and TRAN) be included in the composition of the working group;
- > should be allowed to nominate a maximum of two substitutes who may attend only if one of their designated Members of the working group cannot attend a meeting;

14. Forthcoming hearing of Eurofound Executive Director [TV/ABR]

Background:

Under article 19(2) of the Eurofound Regulation: " 2. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Management Board, from a list of candidates proposed by the Commission, following an open and transparent selection procedure.

The selected candidate shall be invited to make a statement before the European Parliament and to answer questions from Members of Parliament. That exchange of views shall not unduly delay the appointment.

The selection procedure for the post of Eurofound Executive Director was launched in December 2019 with the publication of the vacancy in the Official Journal and resulted in the nomination of Mr Ivailo Kalfin on 5 March 2021 by the Eurofound Management Board as Director for this agency.

[Annexes to be added as and when we receive them: vacancy notice, CV]

The exchange of views of Mr Kalfin in the EMPL Committee is planned for 13 April 2021 at 9:00, the format will be similar to previous exchanges of views with appointed Directors (e.g. ELA). Following the exchange of views in committee, the Coordinators will be invited to assess the candidate and provide input for an evaluation letter.

15. Proposal to amend the scope of the INL "Protecting workers from asbestos" (EMPL/9/01679)- state -of play [CK]

Background

By letter dated 11 February 2021, co-signed by the EMPL, ENVI and IMCO chair to the CCC on 9 March 2021 requesting to take note of the agreement reached between EMPL, ENVI and IMCO that ENVI and IMCO could issue an opinion under rule 57 (shared competences) applicable to some aspects of the INL report, given that this INL will touch upon key competences of the ENVI and IMCO Committees.

The agreement was transmitted to the CoP on 9 March 2021 with content below. CoP adopted it on 11 March 2021 without further discussion:

on the EMPL Committee's request for a modification of the scope of a legislative own initiative report entitled "*Protecting workers from asbestos*", pursuant to Rule 47 and already authorised by the Conference of Presidents at its meeting of 11 December 2019, where the EMPL Committee offered association under Rule 57 to the IMCO and ENVI Committees and where the ENVI Committee subsequently requested additional competences under Rule 57, the three committees have reached the following agreement:

- the EMPL Committee will remain the committee responsible;
- the IMCO Committee will be associated under Rule 57; and
- the ENVI Committee will be associated under Rule 57.

Further details on the division of competences and the terms of the association under Rule 57 are outlined in the committees' joint letters, which you will find attached. I would be grateful if you could submit these agreements to the attention of the Conference of Presidents for authorisation.

The agreement between the EMPL and ENVI and IMCO's contains the following aspects:

- ENVI will issue an opinion under rule 57 (shared competences) applicable to the proposed amendments to Directive (EU) 2010/31/EU which do not concern the protection of the health of workers, and to a legislative proposal for public registers with minimum standards for digital asbestos registries mapping all existing asbestos in a country or region, with the exception of paragraphs pertaining to occupational health and safety;
- IMCO will issue an opinion under rule 57 (shared competences) applicable to all aspects of the INL report that concern the screening before selling or renting out a building and the proposal to establish asbestos certificates for buildings that were built before 2005.

The report is expected to be voted upon in late September. The following INL in line (Revision of European Works Councils Directive, Rapp: Radtke) can then formally be launched)

16. Possible update of the Rules of procedure (ELA) (EC)

Background

Following a decision taken by the coordinators on 28 January, a letter was sent to the President, requesting an update of the Rules of Procedure so that the newly established European Labour Authority can be included in the list of agencies under the EMPL remit in Annex VI Powers and responsibilities of standing committees.

17. Follow-up by the European Commission to the Parliament's positions (non-legislative) of the November II 2020 session: B9-0363/2020, Tackling homelessness rates in the European Union (TV)

Background

The Commission takes note of the resolution of the European Parliament calling on the Commission to take stronger action to support the Member States in reducing and eradicating homelessness. It acknowledges that homelessness is a most extreme form of poverty and social exclusion, and that the COVID-19 crisis has underlined the vulnerability of homeless people and the need to address homelessness.

While the responsibility for addressing homelessness remains with national, regional and local authorities, as acknowledged in the resolution, the EU has a key role in supporting and complementing the activities of the Member States. The Commission supports the Member States through policy guidance, mutual learning activities and funding.

Further details are available in the Annexes (Full Commission response).

18. Petitions received for information (see the annexes) [MP/NH]

• Petition No 0937/2020 by V.N. (Romanian) bearing 46.950 signatures, on the protection of Romanian seasonal and social workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

19. Future EMPL meetings dates [JK]

The updated EP calendar for 2021 is among the annexes

Future EMPL meetings dates

The concrete EMPL meeting dates will be subject to availability of resources (the logistical capacities are limited to twelve two hour Interactio meeting slots parallel).

The following meeting slots have been requested for April-May 2021

Week 15

13/04/2021 (Tue) 09:00 - 12:00, 13:45 - 16:15 and 16:45 - 18:45

Week 16

19/04/2021 (Mon) 13:45 - 16:15 and 16:45 - 18:45

22/04/2021 (Thu) 13:45 - 16:15 and 16:45 - 18:45

Week 17

26/04/2021 (Mon) 18:30 - 19:30

Week 21

25/05/2021 (Tue) 09:00 - 12:00 Joint AIDA-EMPL Hearing 26/05/2021 (Wed) 09:00 - 12:00, 13:45 - 16:15 and 16:45 - 18:45 27/05/2021 (Thu) 09:00 - 12:00 and 13:45 - 15:45

Coordinators are invited to note that, due to the current situation (shortage of room equipped with interactio, scarcity of interpretation resources, creation of 5 new Committees, and priority trilogues), neither rooms nor interpretation can currently be guaranteed until the very last moment (even when they have been booked months in advance).

20. Points for information [ADs concerned]

20.1. EPSR AP - next steps [MP]

On the basis the Plenary debate on 11 March and the EMPL Committee debate on the **the Action Plan on the EPSR**, there is large support for this initiative and interest to follow up. Exhaustive public consultation with citizens, social partners, civil society, European and national institutions and bodies prior to the adoption of this plan. Commissioner referred to the Eurobarometer published on 1st March, where 88% of EU citizens claimed to have high expectations for social Europe, and argued that this strengthens Commission's efforts to deliver concrete action that benefits citizens.

1. Main issues of the Action Plan on the EPSR:

- O Jobs: the critical employment situation faced by many Europeans, especially young people, and the need to create quality jobs as a way to reduce poverty. Member States are encouraged to invest in job creation in post-pandemic recovery. This will also be achieved through the Commission Recommendation for Effective Active Employment Support (EASE). The Action Plan sets the target of having at least 78% of the population aged 20 to 64 in employment by 2030.
- Skills: investment in lifelong learning and adult training for upskilling and reskilling to adapt to rapid changes in the labour market. By 2030, at least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year (at least doubling the current figures).
- The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million by 2030. The Commissioner emphasised that this is the very minimum and encouraged Member States to be ambitious.

Other important policy areas are: fighting child poverty, a framework for minimum income, decent working conditions in platform work, investment in housing and renovation, investment in social infrastructure, the green and digital transition. Commissioner Schmit regretted that procedures on health and safety at work involving substances (e.g. carcinogens and mutagens) have been slow. The Plan also introduces multiple (non) legislative instruments to be adopted in the coming years, as well as financial support. The Commission seeks to strengthen the European Semester's social aspect and CSRs, as well as a revision of the social scoreboard. A review shall be carried out in 2025 under the next Commission's mandate. The Commissioner underlined the essential cooperation with Member States for implementation, as well as regional and local authorities and above all, social partners. He appealed to them to take greater responsibility and negotiate agreements.

2. The plan presents a series of legislative and non legislative instruments to be adopted til 2025

2021- Green paper on Ageing, Europe Beatig Cancer Plan, First-stage consultation of EU social partners on platfowrm work, Action Plan on the European Pillar of social rights, Proposal for a revision of the social scoreboard, New Disability Rights strategy, Binding Pay Transparency Measures, Effective Active Support to Eployment, Follow up on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence, A trusted and secure European E-ID, New Occupational Safety and Health Strategy, European platform on combatting homelessness, Communication on Decent Work Worldwide, Skills and Talent package including a revision of Long Term Residence and Review of the Single Permit Directive, as well as setting out options for an EU Talent Pool, Action Plan for Social Economy, Individual Learning Accounts and Micro- Credentials Framweork, Extention and Adoption of the Joint Employment Report, Affordable Housing Initiative, Initiative on Collective Bargaining for the Self-employed:

2022- Implementation report of the Working Time Directive, **Initiative on Long Term Care**, High-Level Group on Access to Adequate and Sustainable Social Protection, New Tools and Indicators on Access to Healthcare, Legal proposal to reduce workers' exposure to hazardous chemicals, including asbestos, **Council Recommendation on Minimum Income**, Initiative on Social Dialogue, Guidance on Ex-Ante Distributional Impact Assessments

2023- First EU report on Access to Essential Services, European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS)

2024- First Evaluation of the European Labour Authority

2025 - Review of the Action plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights

▶ Unlocking social investment through EU funds

Member States should make full use of the unprecedented financial resources available via different EU funds to support reforms and investments in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights, be it through the EU's long-term budget (e. g. EGF, ESF+, Erasmus) or NextGeneration EU (RRF, REACT-eu).

20.2. Porto Social summit [MP]

The expected Porto Social Summit on 7 and May 2021 aims at adopting a Political Declaration to give political momentum to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Indeed the Summit will focus on how to strengthen Europe's social dimension to meet the challenges of a fair, inclusive and resilient recovery, and the green and digital transition. The Pillar Action Plan constitutes the Commission's contribution to the Porto Social Summit.

NB: the Portuguese Presidency scheduled also Social Summit with a high-level conference on 7 May and an) -Tripartite Social Summit: 24 March.

20.3. ELA 2021 WP [ABR]

In accordance with Article 32(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/7151, ELA transmitted its Work Programme for the year 2021.

It was adopted by the Authority's Management Board on 15 December 2020.

20.4. ELA DRAFT SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2024 [ABR]

In accordance with Article 32(1) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/7151, ELA transmitted its draft Single Programming Document for the period 2022-2024.

It was adopted by the Authority's Management Board on 15 December 2020.

20.5. Eurofound PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT 2022 [TV]

Eurofound transmitted the draft Programming Document 2022, as adopted by Eurofound's Management Board on 29 January 2021, in compliance with article 32 of the Financial Regulation which sets out the annual and multiannual programming.

20.6. ETF PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT 2022-24 AND DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2022 [SM]

In compliance with ETF's Financial Regulation, Title II, Chapter 1, Art. 32.1, ETC transmitted its Programming Document 2022-24 and its Draft Annual Work Programme 2022.

20.7. DRAFT EU-OSHA SINGLE PROGRAMMING DOCUMENT 2022-2024 [CK] In accordance with article 6(2) of EU-OSHA's Founding Regulation and article 32.1 of EU-OSHA's Financial Regulation, OSHA transmitted the draft Single Programming Document 2022-2024 as adopted by the Agency's Management Board at its meeting of 22 January 2021.

With the 2021-2023 Single Programming Document, EU-OSHA already reflected the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and this is also the case in the current Single Programming Document 2022-2024. This means that issues like musculoskeletal disorders and telework, the separation of work and private life and the needs and challenges related to groups of workers with specific risks will continue to be relevant. The major review of work-related risks from biological agents that the

agency completed in 2019 provided a timely support to this work. EU-OSHA will also implement an OSH overview on health care over the planning period, a sector which has been essential during the pandemic. For EU-OSHA it is very important to be able to contribute significantly to these new areas, without, however, ignoring other key OSH challenges as identified in the main policy documents thus far. In the section I, General Context, the challenges, needs and priorities are outlined in more detail. Another theme, the importance of which has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic is digitalisation. EU-OSHA will finalise a major OSH overview on Digitalisation which will provide knowledge for policy-makers about digitalisation and OSH. In 2023, the Agency will also initiate its next major Healthy Workplaces Campaign on the topic of digitalisation. In order to continue contributing to better safety and health at work in Europe, the close collaboration with the Management Board of EU-OSHA and the focal points has been and will continue to be essential. By the end of 2021, the Agency will have a new executive director and a new EU Strategic Framework for Safety and Health at Work will have been adopted. Subsequently, the Single Programming Document will be revised as necessary.

20.8. Creation of a vaccine contact group [EC]

On 24 February 2021, the conference of Presidents <u>decided</u> to mandate the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI), the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the INTA Committee to establish a COVID-19 Vaccines Contact Group as follows:

- The Contact Group should consist of:
 - the coordinators from all political groups of the ENVI, ITRE and INTA Committees (or their designated representatives);
 - and the ENVI, ITRE and INTA Committee Chairs as Co-Chairs of the Contact Group;
- The Contact Group should be briefed on a weekly basis on the latest developments by Mr SCHINAS, Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms KYRIAKIDES, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and Mr BRETON, Commissioner for Internal Market;
- The Contact Group might express Parliament's expectations and requests towards the Commission regarding adequate measures;
- The Contact Group should be invited to participate in meetings between the Conference of Presidents and the President of the European Commission to discuss the EU's COVID-19 vaccines strategy;
- The Contact Group should ensure close and regular cooperation with all parliamentary committees involved in the EU's COVID-19 vaccines strategy, notably with the BUDG Committee, the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO), the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) and the Committee on Development (DEVE);

The COVID-19 Vaccines Contact Group will report back directly to the Conference of Presidents.

21. Documents for information [ADs concerned]

COM(2021)0046

Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on EURES activity July 2018 - June 2020 submitted pursuant to Article 33 of Regulation (EU) 2016/589 [MP]

This Activity Report presents activities of the EURES network between July 2018 and June 2020 as well as a description of the state of play of the application of the EURES Regulation (EU) 2016/589 as of June 2020 as provided for in Article 33 of this Regulation.

Launched in 1994, EURES is a cooperative network between the European Commission, the national Public Employment Services (PES) and other Members and Partners such as private employment services, social partners, and universities, in all the EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and, in the reference period of this report, the United Kingdom (hereafter: 'EURES countries').

The main goal of the EURES network is the promotion of fair intra-EU labour mobility. The main activities focused on the provision of support services to employers and workers, mostly via the provision of information on labour mobility issues and recruitment activities. In addition, specific support services on apprenticeships and traineeships, post-recruitment assistance and mobility schemes were provided throughout the network. Progress was achieved in the implementation of the EURES Regulation:

- Most EURES countries have in place an admission system for new Members and Partners in order to enlarge their networks and a number of new Members and Partners have already been admitted.
- All but one EURES countries are automatically transferring job vacancies and more than half are transferring CVs from national level to the EURES Portal.
- The usability of the EURES Portal was improved and work on the implementation of an automated matching of CVs and job vacancies on the EURES Portal is ongoing.
- Templates to enable harmonised planning and performance measurement across the EURES network are in use (Performance Measurement System and programming cycle).

However, a lack of compliance with the EURES Regulation delays the implementation of interoperability solutions. More efforts should be made to enhancing the exchange of information on labour mobility, aligning the programming and monitoring cycles, and further facilitate the provision of support services to apprenticeships and traineeships. Continuing their work on the accomplishment of automated transfer of job vacancies and CVs, where this is not yet done, and completing the ongoing mapping of national classification systems to the European classification of skills, qualifications and occupations (ESCO) should be a priority in order to enhance the usability of the EURES Portal. It is also important for the EURES network to integrate even further the analysis of labour market trends in the planning of its activities and to explore the need for targeted activities in view of socio-demographic developments.

These priorities should be carried out in a challenging implementation context for EURES, given the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on intra-EU labour mobility and considering the transition of ECO to the European Labour Authority (ELA) foreseen for 2021. In this regard, ELA should prioritise the implementation of the action plan for the transfer, together with the recruitment of qualified staff and sufficient resource allocation.

COM(2021)0050

Green paper on ageing: Fostering solidarity and responsibility between generations [MM]

The purpose of this green paper is to launch a broad policy debate on ageing to discuss options on how to anticipate and respond to the challenges and opportunities it brings, notably taking into account the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN Decade for Healthy Ageing. Competences for dealing with the effects of ageing are largely in the hands of Member States and the EU is well placed to identify key issues and trends and support action on ageing at national, regional and local level. It can help Member States and regions develop their own, tailor-made policy responses to ageing.

In June 2020, the Commission presented a report setting out the key facts of demographic change and its likely impacts. This green paper is the first outcome of this report and launches a debate on one of the defining demographic transformations in Europe. The debate will be inclusive and build on the work of other EU institutions and bodies who are actively engaged in the debate on demographic challenges. This green paper launches a 12 week public consultation.

This green paper takes a life-cycle approach. It covers areas like healthy and active ageing, education, life-long learning, employment, retirement, old-age poverty, staying active, health and long-term care needs, mobility, connectivity, accessibility and intergenerational solidarity.

COM(2021)0101

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 [SM]

COM(2021)0102

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan [MP]

Please refer to the summary provided under point 18.1 EPSR AP - next steps

COM(2021)0104

Proposal for a COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION granting temporary support under Regulation (EU) 2020/672 to Estonia to mitigate unemployment risks in the emergency following the COVID-19 outbreak [JB]

Council Regulation (EU) 2020/672 ("SURE Regulation") lays down the legal framework for providing Union financial assistance to Member States, which are experiencing, or are seriously threatened with, a severe economic disturbance caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. Support under SURE serves for the financing, primarily, of short-time work schemes or similar measures aimed at protecting employees and the self-employed and thus reducing the incidence of unemployment and loss of income, as well as for the financing, as an ancillary, of some health-related measures, in particular in the workplace.

On 4 February 2021, Estonia requested Union financial assistance under the SURE Regulation. In accordance with Article 6(2) of the SURE Regulation, the Commission has consulted the Estonian authorities to verify the sudden and severe increase in actual and planned expenditure directly related to short-term labour market schemes and similar measures and health related measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Estonia provided the Commission with the relevant information.

Taking into account the available evidence, the Commission proposes to the Council to adopt an Implementing Decision to grant financial assistance to Estonia under the SURE Regulation in support of the above measures.

SWD(2021)0010

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT EVALUATION of the 2014-2018 ESF support to employment and labour mobility, social inclusion and education and training [MP]

This staff working document (SWD) presents results of the evaluation of the European Social Fund (ESF) support to policies in the areas of employment and labour mobility (thematic objective 8), social inclusion (thematic objective 9), and education and training (thematic objective 10). The evaluation assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and the EU added-value including the sustainability of activities funded by the ESF in the period 2014-2018 (excludes the pandemic and the subsequent crisis). It also addresses the complementarity and coherence with other relevant initiatives during the period concerned. It covers all Member States during that period (i.e. including the United Kingdom).

There is clear evidence on the positive contribution of ESF operations to the overarching objectives of ESF support to employment, social inclusion and education towards the EU 2020 targets. 22.2 million participations were reported covering the specific target groups of each ESF thematic objective (with higher shares of unemployed participants in employment operations, of disadvantaged groups in social inclusion ones and of inactive and young people in education and training). There is sustainable positive impact on participants: 9.5 million positive results were reported in total by December 2018 (this includes participants engaged in job searching or who found a job; including self-employment; entered education/training or gained a qualification).

Within ESF support to employment, the most successful operations have been access to employment for the unemployed. As regards education and training, early leavers from education and training and lifelong learning operations have been more successful in terms of both direct results and the potential for longer-term systemic change. On top of the positive results for participants in ESF operations have final positive macroeconomic impacts. The final estimated impact would add 0.26% to European GDP by 2023, and 316 000 jobs.

Finally, significant potential for long-term impacts was identified through ESF support for the development of system level changes and sustainable innovative measures. ESF support to social inclusion also had broader impacts including enhanced access to public services, deinstitutionalisation, and cross-sectoral collaborations to promote innovative approaches.

The analysis of efficiency has shown that there was a high level of variation across investment priorities and Member States in the cost-effectiveness of the different types of operations. Overall cost benefit analyses attempted for social inclusion and education and training suggest positive returns particularly under active inclusion, early leavers from education and training and tertiary education operations.

ESF administrative requirements are considered to be proportionate to the benefits achieved. As regards social inclusion, other key factors that limit the efficiency of ESF operations include gold plating and drawing on other EU funds (e.g. ERDF, CF) to support the operational programme. The complexity of administering an operational programme with multiple funds may have led to delayed implementation and generation of results. For education and training support, there was also evidence that having many partners involved in implementation can result in delays.

Support to employment managed to reach participants in high need of support, including the inactive, the long-term unemployed and migrants. ESF support was most relevant when combined with other measures that support the participants (including health, housing, etc.), especially those furthest away from the labour market. ESF support for social inclusion reached a substantially higher share of people with a disability, migrants, people with a foreign background and minorities, as well as those with low education than did support to employment and labour mobility and education operations, which is fully consistent with the focus and target groups of social inclusion. Refugees and migrants, Roma, the long-term unemployed, older workers and people with disabilities

were identified as the most challenging groups to engage. In particular, improving access to higher education for vulnerable population groups is a big challenge.

The assessment found that the European Semester is a strong framework for ensuring that ESF operations are relevant to target groups. Improvements to relevance could, however be made through enhanced consultation with actors closer to the needs of target groups, such as NGOs, social partners and, training providers.

Coherence with other EU funding instruments in related fields is more mixed: while there is often good coherence in the legal texts, evidence of synergies in implementation varies, and a variety of challenges in combining different funds were identified. ESF employment operations show a good level of complementarity with ERDF thematic objective 3 (competitiveness of SMEs). However, integration with ESF can be improved. Employment operations also show significant synergies with other EU-funded programmes, namely EaSI, the European Globalisation Fund and the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund.

ESF operations are well aligned with national and regional policies in the Member States.

ESF operations also played an important role in supporting the transfer of ideas and the introduction of innovations and structural reforms

SWD(2021)0011

Commission staff working document: Executive summary of the evaluation of the 2014-2018 ESF support to employment and mobility, social inclusion and education and training [MP]

Background and context

The ESF invests in people by financing a wide range of actions directly supporting individuals (e.g. guidance, counselling, professional training and re-training, education, scholarships), as well as actions aiming to improve services to people (e.g. by modernising labour market institutions and education and training systems). The total 2014-2020 budget for ESF operations was EUR 121 billion, with the EU contribution representing EUR 84 billion .

Kev achievements

By the end of 2018, about 22 million people had participated in ESF actions. Women made up 52% of all participations. Some 2.3 million people found a job through the ESF, and about 3.3 million people gained a qualification.

Main findings

Effectiveness: There are large differences in performance across Member States, operational programmes and investment priorities.. The most significant factor hampering effectiveness is insufficient administrative capacity.

Efficiency: cost-benefit analyses attempted for social inclusion and education and training support suggest positive returns, particularly under active inclusion, early school leaving and tertiary education operations.

Relevance: ESF support was highly relevant to employment and labour mobility, social inclusion and education policy needs.

Coherence: ESF operations are aligned with EU, national and regional policies and initiatives and have supported their implementation on the ground. The fulfilment of ESF preconditions led to structural reforms, enhancing coherence. ESF employment and labour mobility, social inclusion and education and training operations are internally coherent. Coherence with other EU funding instruments in related fields is more mixed even if there is often good coherence in the legal texts and some evidence of synergies in implementation, a variety of challenges were identified.

Added value: ESF operations have made a significant difference in the lives of many people across the EU.

Lessons learned

A number of lessons can be drawn for the implementation of the European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027:

- operational programme strategies should be embedded into national (or regional) strategies;
- adequate levels of human and institutional resources are needed to achieve effective operational programme implementation;
- strong partnerships between managing authorities and stakeholders are required;
- operation design and implementation should be based on target group needs;
- ESF-supported actions bring about changes beyond employment and qualifications; there is a need to better showcase these;
- more should be done to promote the visibility of ESF support and mutual learning;
- more timely availability of data is crucial to provide robust evidence on the impacts of ESF interventions.

SWD(2021)0046

Commission staff working document Accompanying the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions The European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan [MP]

This staff working document complements the Communication on the Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights by additional information. It provides a summary of the broad consultation process carried out from 14 January to 30 November 2020 (section 2). It then provides information on action taken to implement the Pillar since its proclamation by the European Parliament, Council and Commission in November 2017 at EU level, and with examples of national, regional and local action, including by social partners and relevant stakeholders (in section 3). Finally, it gives background information on actions proposed to monitor progress in implementing the Action Plan, notably the targets for 2030 and the revised Social Scoreboard as set out in the Action Plan, and ongoing benchmarking exercises run by the Commission with the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee

22. Timetables

Timetables of reports:

Protecting workers from asbestos - rapp VILLUMSEN

Draft report ready	23.03.2021
Consideration of draft report	19.04.2021
Deadline AMs	27.04 noon
Consideration of AMs	2627.05
Vote in EMPL	30 September tbc

Old continent growing older - possibilities and challenges related to ageing policy post 2020 - rapp: SZYDLO (update)

Send draft report to translation	11 September		
Consideration of draft report	1 October tbc		
Deadline for amendments	8 October noon		
Availability of AMs in all languages	23 October tbc		
Consideration of AMs	10 November		
Shadows meetings	Weeks 49, 50, 51, 1-7		
Vote in EMPL	25 March 22 April 2021		
Plenary	March 2021 tbc		

Timetables of opinions:

The European Education Area - rapp: MAXOVA

Send draft to translation	22 March 2021
Consideration of draft opinion	13 April 2021
Deadline for AMs	20 April 2021
Availability of Amendments in all languages	(tbc)
Shadow Rapporteurs meeting - compromises	(tbc)
Vote in EMPL	03 June 2021
Vote in CULT	SEPT 2021 (tbc)

23. Use of the annual page reserve in 2020 (JK)

The total annual page reserve amounts to 45 pages à 1500 characters.

FdR	Deadline	Doc. Type	Part	Characters	Pages	Rapporteur	AD	Subject
1214093	01/03/2021	PR	Motion for a resolution	2914	1,94	Brunet	Burger	Fair working conditions, rights and social protection for platform workers
					0,00			
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Total: 2914 1,94

24. Dates of next Coordinators' meetings [JK]

Coordinators' meeting dates in 2021

- > Please note that owing to the Coronavirus crisis, Coordinators' meetings will only be convened when this is necessary and technically feasible (availability of Interactio).
- > Next Coordinators' meetings are tentatively scheduled for
- > Tuesday 13 April, 16:45-18:15