



The European Pillar of Social Rights: going forward together – *Programme*

Brussels, 23 January 2017

Venue:	European Commission, Charlemagne building, Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, 170– 1000 Bruxelles/Brussel
Web:	http://ec.europa.eu/social/pillar/conference #SocialRights

08:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:00	<p>Opening session (Room De Gasperi)</p> <p>Opening addresses by Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility</p> <p>Evarist Bartolo, Minister for Education and Employment, Malta, on behalf of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union</p> <p>Exchange of views with Allan Larsson, Special Adviser for the European Pillar of Social Rights, Maria João Rodrigues, Member of the European Parliament, rapporteur on the European Pillar of Social Rights and Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organisation</p> <p>Moderator: Tamsin Rose</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE¹- To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE</p>
10:30	Coffee break

¹ GE = international sign language

11:00 **First series of thematic workshops:**

Working Group A: Ensuring equal access to labour markets and skills development

(Room De Gasperi)

Ensuring that every person has equal access to the labour market is important to increase their chances to find a job, return to work, or enter a new occupation, thus earning an income and avoiding social exclusion. It is also essential for contributing to Europe's growth and competitiveness. Lack of effective activation support, education or training opportunities, the presence of direct or indirect discrimination (e.g. related to gender, ethnicity, disability), but also difficulties in reconciling work and family life for parents and people with caring responsibilities can be some of the obstacles to finding a job or creating a business.

The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights

Introductory remarks:

Tibor Navracsics, Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport: Key issues on future skill needs arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights

Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation: Key issues arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights

Ylva Johansson, Swedish Minister for Employment and Integration: A Social Pact - the Swedish Perspective

Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, OECD: The OECD's perspective on the role of skills for access to the labour markets

Lis Korsbjerg, Global HR Manager at Arla Foods and **Else Marie Pettersen**, Danish Trade Union: The training and up-skilling initiative at Arla Foods, Denmark – a joint social partners' approach

Discussion

Moderator: **Tiina Astola**, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers

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Working Group B: Tackling poverty (Room Jenkins)

One in four Europeans is at risk of poverty or social exclusion and in-work poverty affects nearly 10% of all people in employment. Child poverty is a particular concern as close to 27% of all children in the EU are living at risk of poverty or social exclusion. Unemployment, insufficient participation in the labour market of parents and low earnings, in some countries coupled with low access to services and the weak impact of income support measures, are among the main factors leading to child poverty and social exclusion. Given that children growing up in poor households are less likely to do well in school, enjoy good health and realise their full potential, this may lead to a vicious circle of disadvantage. Some populations, such as people from a migrant background and Roma, often face additional barriers to social and labour market integration. A comprehensive mix of adequate income support, provision of essential services (e.g. housing) and activation measures has been shown to be effective in reducing poverty. However access to activation benefits and services is often fragmented, making it difficult for people to obtain the support they need, including for those who may never (again) be able to work. Some Member States are experimenting with universal basic income schemes.

The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Introductory remarks:

Corina Crețu, Commissioner for Regional Policy: Key issues arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights

Her Royal Highness Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands,
UNESCO Special Envoy on Literacy for Development

José Vieira da Silva, Portuguese Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security: The Portuguese perspective

Pirkko Mattila, Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health: The universal basic income scheme in Finland

Dr Aisling Gillen, National Programme Manager for the Development and Mainstreaming Programme for Prevention, Partnership and Family Support: The Lifestart Programme - an evidence-based home visiting programme in the North- west of Ireland, commissioned by Tusla , Child and Family Agency, as part of its early intervention service.

Discussion

Moderator: **Xavier Prats-Monné**, Director General for Health and Food Safety

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Working Group C: Fair Working Conditions for all (Room Mansholt)

New forms of work and technological developments are challenging business models and wage setting mechanisms, bringing more precarious work contracts, increased sub-contracting, and calling for a reassessment of the best ways to combine flexibility and security as well as address deteriorating working conditions. Traditional employer-employee relationships are challenged and benefits are often unevenly distributed. Ensuring decent and fair working conditions for all workers, regardless of their employment relationship, suggests a need for adapting labour regulations.

The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Introductory remarks:

Věra Jourová, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality: Key issues arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights

	<p>Alois Stöger, Austrian Minister for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection: The Austrian perspective</p> <p>Giuliano Poletti, Minister of Labour and Social Policies: The Italian perspective</p> <p>Sandrino Graceffa, Director, SMart platform Belgium: A concrete example on how to provide security to platform workers</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Jean-Eric Paquet, Deputy Secretary-General</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-LV-LT-HU-PL-BG-RO-GE To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL- - FI- - CS-LV- - - - - PL- - - -GE</p>
12:30	Buffet lunch
14:00	<p>Second series of thematic workshops</p> <p>Working Group D: The future of work (Room De Gasperi)</p> <p>The European economy is changing profoundly, largely powered by the Internet and digital technologies. Automation and robotics bring the promise of large productivity gains. Short-term contracts, more independent and flexible working arrangements, growth in the gig and collaborative economy are some of the tangible ways in which the world of work is evolving. This comes with a demand for new skills and abilities on the labour market.</p> <p>The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights.</p> <p>Introductory remarks:</p> <p>Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs: Key issues on the future of work arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights</p>

Thorben Albrecht, State Secretary at Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs, Germany: The White Paper 'Arbeiten 4.0'

Peter Vesterbacka Brand Manager, Lightneer Inc.: The point of view of an innovative entrepreneur who launched 'Angry Birds'

Zuzana Vaneckova, Board Member of the European Youth Forum: The perspective of young people on how to ensure the quality of new jobs

Discussion

Moderator: **Michel Servoz**, Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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Working Group E: The Future of social protection

(Room Jenkins)

Working lives are becoming more diverse, including multiple jobs and forms of employment, career interruptions, increased mobility and professional changes within one's lifetime. However, the social security and training entitlements that people build up in one job are not always easily transferred to another. Inequalities in access to social protection have become more prominent in the context of recent labour market transformations. Inter-generational fairness of social protection is also a concern, as younger generations are disproportionately affected by the new forms of work, not always entitled to the social support they need, while population ageing will make it harder to finance adequate pensions in the coming decades.

The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Introductory remarks:

Vytenis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety: Key issues arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights

Myriam El Khomri, French Minister of Labour, Employment, Professional Training and Social Dialogue: The French initiative of the personal activity account ("Compte personnel d'activité")

Anja Kopač Mrak, Slovene Minister of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities: The Slovene perspective

Dr Wolfgang Schulz-Weidner, European Social Insurance Platform: Concrete experiences with the statutory pension insurance of platform workers in EU countries

Discussion

Moderator: **Marco Buti**, Director General for Economic and Financial Affairs

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Working Group F: The social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union

(Room Mansholt)

The social costs inflicted by the recent crisis continue to weigh heavily on many European countries, and put at risk their performance and internal cohesion. The crisis has shown that countries with more dynamic and inclusive labour markets and efficient automatic stabilisers are more resilient to economic shocks and experience fewer social scars. Well-functioning labour markets and efficient and effective welfare systems increase the capacity of national economies to respond to shocks and contribute to productivity growth and social cohesion in the longer term. This is all the more relevant for the euro area, where participating countries do not have independent monetary policy instruments at their disposal.

The workshop will discuss how the above issues could be addressed in the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Introductory remarks:

	<p>Pierre Moscovici, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs: Key issues arising from the consultation and possible orientations for the European Pillar of Social Rights</p> <p>Janis Reirs, Latvian Minister of Welfare: The Latvian perspective</p> <p>Peter Praet, Executive Board Member and chief economist of the European Central Bank: The ECB perspective of the social dimension of EMU</p> <p>Jana Hainsworth, President of the Social Platform: The civil society perspective of the social dimension of the EMU</p> <p>Moderator: Martine Reicherts, Director General for Education and Culture</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-LV-LT-HU-PL-BG-RO-GE To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL- - FI- - CS-LV- - - PL- - - GE</p>
<p>15:30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>16:00</p>	<p>Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament (tbc) (Room De Gasperi)</p> <p>Moderator: Ann Mettler, European Commission, European Political Strategy Centre</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE</p>
<p>16:20</p>	<p>Concluding session: the way forward (Room De Gasperi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valdis Dombrovskis, Vice-President, European Commission • Georges Dassis, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (tbc) • Karl-Heinz Lambertz, First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions • Markus Beyrer, Director General of BusinessEurope • Luca Visentini, General Secretary of the European Trade Union Confederation

	<p>Moderator: Ann Mettler, European Commission, European Political Strategy Centre</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE</p>
17:15	<p>Concluding remarks by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission</p> <p>(Room De Gasperi)</p> <p>Moderator: Ann Mettler, European Commission, European Political Strategy Centre</p> <p><i>Interpretation:</i> From: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE To: FR-DE-EN-IT-ES-NL-PT-EL-DA-FI-SV-CS-ET-LV-LT-HU-MT-PL-SK-SL-BG-RO-HR-GE</p>
17:30	<p>End of the conference</p>