



Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth

Gothenburg, 17 November 2017

EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS



'A fair and more social Europe is key in shaping our Union's future. This is what citizens rightly expect. I want the EU to stand up for the rights of its citizens in a fast-changing world. This is what the European Pillar of Social Rights is all about.'

President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, Tripartite Social Summit, 18 October 2017

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS?

Building a **fair and more social Europe** is a key priority for this Commission. President Juncker announced the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights in his September 2015 State of the Union Address. Following a broad public consultation, the Pillar was presented in April 2017 by the Commission as a proposal for a joint proclamation by the EU Institutions. The Pillar will be proclaimed by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the Social Summit on 17 November 2017.

The European Pillar of Social Rights is delivering **new and more effective rights for citizens**. It expresses 20 principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems in 21st century Europe. It is the first set of rights proclaimed by EU institutions since the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Pillar will help us encourage a race to the top, benefiting citizens.

The Pillar enshrines **20 principles and rights** in the field of:



Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

- ▶ Education, training and lifelong learning
- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Equal opportunities
- ▶ Active support to employment



Fair working conditions

- ▶ Secure and adaptable employment
- ▶ Wages
- ▶ Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals
- ▶ Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- ▶ Work-life balance
- ▶ Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection



Social protection and inclusion

- ▶ Childcare and support to children
- ▶ Social protection
- ▶ Unemployment benefits
- ▶ Minimum income
- ▶ Old age income and pensions
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Inclusion of people with disabilities
- ▶ Long-term care
- ▶ Housing and assistance for the homeless
- ▶ Access to essential services

DELIVERING ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

Delivering on the principles and rights defined under the European Pillar of Social Rights is a joint responsibility of the Member States, social partners, European Union and other stakeholders. The EU will help by doing the following:



Endorsing the European Pillar of Social Rights

- ▶ Since a large public consultation and its presentation by the Commission in 2017, the Pillar has received broad support from the European Parliament and the Council as well as from social partners and civil society. The Pillar will be **solemnly proclaimed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission** at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth of 17 November 2017 in Gothenburg, Sweden.



Updating and complementing EU law where necessary

- ▶ The Pillar is accompanied by a number of legislative and non-legislative proposals, among which a **proposal to help working parents and carers manage their family life and their professional career**, updates to the EU health and safety legislation and initiatives on fair labour contracts and access to social protection.



Improving the enforcement of EU law

- ▶ In addition to new legislative initiatives, the European Pillar of Social Rights focuses on the **actual implementation of legislation**. For instance, the Commission published a clarification of the Working Time Directive to help Member States apply the rules so that protection of workers regarding working time can be ensured. The Commission will also come forward with a proposal for a European Labour Authority in Spring 2018.



Supporting social dialogue in the EU

- ▶ Since the start of its mandate, the Commission has promoted social dialogue as an instrument to improve EU policy- and lawmaking. The social partners have played a key role in the construction of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and will continue to do so in its implementation.



Monitoring progress within the European Semester of economic policy coordination

- ▶ Social considerations have been mainstreamed and reinforced in the European Semester since the beginning of this Commission. **The Semester analysis and recommendations will continue to put emphasis on social considerations and follow-up on the Pillar.**
- ▶ The implementation of the Pillar will also be supported by an **online social scoreboard to track trends and performances across the EU**. This will feed into the European Semester of economic policy coordination and serve to assess progress towards a 'social triple A' for Europe.



Providing financial support from the EU budget

- ▶ The European funds, in particular the European Social Fund, will support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the Member States. For the period 2014-2020, the European Social Fund disposes of almost EUR 90 billion to support access to employment, social inclusion and education. Beyond 2020, European funding will continue to provide key investments in social and human capital across the EU.