

December 2017

Issue N° 7.

In this issue

- [News from the Commission](#)
- [Latest news from social partners](#)
- [Information from EU agencies](#)
- [Send us your contribution](#)

*Follow the EU Social Dialogue
on Twitter!*

 [#eusocdia](#)



News from the Commission



Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth – Proclamation of European Pillar of Social Rights

Together with President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven hosted a Social Summit in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, focusing on promoting fair jobs and growth. It gathered heads of State and government, social partners and other key players.

On the Social Summit European Union leaders solemnly proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar

New Initiative to close the gender pay gap

On 20 November 2017 the Commission has adopted a new action plan to address the gender pay gap featuring 8 priority areas:

1. Improving the application of the equal pay principle
2. Combating segregation in occupations and sectors
3. Breaking the ceiling: initiatives to combat vertical segregation
4. Tackling the care penalty
5. Better valorising women's skills, efforts and responsibilities
6. Fighting the fog: unveiling inequalities and stereotypes
7. Alerting and informing about the gender pay gap
8. Lending hands: enhancing partnerships to tackle the gender pay gap

For the details:

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=607452

Consultations of Social Partners

Recent and ongoing 2nd phase Social Partner Consultations under Article 154 TFEU

- On a possible **revision of the Written Statement**

was first announced by President Juncker in his 2015 State of the Union Address and presented by the Commission in April 2017. The **Proclamation** was signed by President Juncker for the European Commission, President Tajani for the European Parliament and Prime Minister Ratas for the Council of the European Union.

On the eve of the Social Summit Prime Minister Löfven hosted an extraordinary meeting between EU leaders and European social partners. At this occasion social partners presented a **joint statement** in view of the Social Summit. The outcomes of the Social Summit were presented by President Juncker and Swedish Prime Minister Löfven in a **concluding report** which will serve to frame the follow-up of the Summit starting with the December European Council.

Directive (Directive 91/533/EEC) in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights, launched on 21/09/2017 with deadline of 3/11/2017, received 23 responses.

- On a possible **review of Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive** 2004/37/EC to include binding occupational exposure limit values for additional carcinogens and mutagens, launched on 10/11/2017 with deadline: of 22/12/2017.
- On a possible action addressing the challenges of **access to social protection** for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights, launched on 21/11/2017 with deadline of 05/01/2017.

Hearings & High level meetings

Hearing on European Labour Authority and European Social Security Number

On 11/12 a hearing with Social Partners and national authorities took place concerning the future tasks and design of the European Labour Authority and the European Social Security Number which were announced for the 7th March 2018, as part of the social fairness package (together with the access to social protection initiative).

Legislative Acts

Carcinogen substances added to the Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (Directive 2004/37/EC)

On 7 December the Council amended Directive 2004/37/EC and added the following substances with limit values to Annex III of the Directive: hardwood dusts, certain chromium (VI) compounds, carcinogen refractory ceramic fibres, respirable crystalline silica dust, benzene, vinyl chloride monomer, ethylene oxide, 1,2-epoxypropane, acrylamide, 2-nitropropane, o-toluidine, 1,3-butadiene, hydrazine, bromoethylene. For two more groups of substances similar proposals are still in preparation.

Better working conditions for seafarers: Council approves agreement between social partners

On 7 December the Council approved a directive which gives legal effect to an agreement between EU social partners in the maritime sector. It will incorporate amendments to the Maritime Labour Convention into EU law. On this occasion the President of the Council stressed that this was an important step to improve the working conditions of seafarers and a successful example of sectorial social dialogue. The incorporation of the agreement into EU law will significantly improve working conditions of seafarers on EU flagged vessels and these seafarers will be covered by a mandatory financial security system.

Contributions from Social Partners

Central Government Administration

In November Eurofound has published a **representativeness study** for this sector. The study concludes that TUNED and EUPAE are the most representative social partner organisations in that sector which accounts for nearly 10 million employees. In a letter TUNED and EUPAE welcomed the result and asked the Commission for further information about the ongoing evaluation of the agreement on information and consultation rights that followed the Commission's consultation of social partners.



Agriculture

Social partners in agriculture foster an EU debate on the social security for cross-national seasonal workers to overcome the challenges of Regulation 883/2004 (Coordination of social security systems). The hiring process of seasonal workers is a corner stone for the agricultural social partners' willingness to negotiate on the information to be provided by the employers to the workers: essential elements of the working relation must be known from the first day of the employment and the employers' administrative burden must be tackled.



Electricity

The European Social Partners in the Electricity sector, EURELECTRIC, IndustriAll Europe and EPSU signed a [joint statement](#) to promote a just energy transition and facilitate a sustained decarbonisation of the sector as well as the entire European economy during their plenary meeting on 21 November. In order to promote this the Social Partners organised an [event](#), "The Power Talks-The Just Transition to Clean Energy in Europe" that took place on 5 December 2017."

Banking sector

European social partners signed on 17 November a "[Joint Declaration on Telework in the European Banking Sector](#)". This new declaration addresses issues (e.g. data protection, cybersecurity, privacy, equipment use & training) relating to telework as a widespread form of work resulting from the advancing of technology and its impact on employment. The EU Social Partners now start working on a joint declaration on digitalisation.

Professional Football



During the plenary meeting of the SSDC Professional Football held in November, ECA, EPFL, FIFPro division Europe and UEFA agreed on a [joint resolution](#) on intermediaries. The resolution acknowledges that the current rules have "failed to address serious concerns in relation to the activities of intermediaries/agents". The document also sets out general recommendations to be considered in order to ensure "higher professional and ethical standards" across Europe through e.g. "enhanced transparency, disclosures and accountability" as well as "appropriate and dissuasive sanctions in case of non-compliance" underpinned by "an efficient monitoring and enforcement framework". The partners will follow-up on the subject in the year to come.

Further news

Previous Newsletters are now available as pdf-documents at the [social dialogue website](#).

News from the EU agencies

EUROFOUND

On 14 - 15 November 2017 the Foundation Forum, Eurofound's flagship event gathered policymakers in the field of social, employment and work-related policies at Dublin Castle. The theme of the Foundation Forum 2017 was 'Converging economies, diverging societies? - Upward convergence in the EU'. In the uprun to the Gothenborg Summit the forum led to interesting discussions how to balance social and economic aspects of upward convergence and on the role of social partners in this process which resulted in some [key messages](#) forwarded to the Summit.

Eurofound latest publications (September - November 2017)

New Country updates

Country updates summarise the latest working life developments and are published four times a year. The latest updates (Q3 2017) have been published in November.

Recent publications

https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications?published_at=0

Amongst the recent publications are the following reports:

- **Representativeness studies** for **Central government administration**; **Tanning and leather**; **Footwear** (November 2017).
- **Reactivate: Employment opportunities for economically inactive people** 31/10/2017 + **Executive summary**
- **EurWORK Topical update on Extending working life: what do workers want?** (28/09/2017)
- **Developments in working life in Europe: EurWORK annual review 2016** 25/09/2017
- **Exploring self-employment in European Union**, 21/09/2017 + **Executive summary**
- **Working time patterns for sustainable work**, 18/09/2017 + **Executive summary**
- **Non-standard forms of employment: recent trends and future prospects**, 13/09/2017
- **In-work poverty in the EU**, 5/09/2017 + **Executive summary**

Forthcoming reports

- **Working conditions of workers of different ages**, December 2017
- **Long-term unemployed youth: Characteristics and policy responses**, December 2017
- **Fourth European Quality of Life Survey: Overview report**, December 2017

EU-OSHA

Work-related injuries and illnesses cost EU €476 billion a year

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) presented new estimates of the cost of poor occupational safety and health. The new findings reveal that work-related ill-health and injury is costing the European Union 3.3 % of its GDP. That's €476 billion every year which could be saved with the right occupational safety and health strategies, policies and practices. EU-OSHA and ILO have also developed a **data visualisation tool** which shows the global costs of work-related illnesses and accidents in an accessible way.

Healthy Workplaces Summit closed a successful campaign to promote a sustainable working life

The **Healthy Workplaces Summit** concluded EU-OSHA's 2016-17 **Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign**. Leading experts in the occupational safety and health field and political decision makers gathered on 21 and 22 November in Bilbao, Spain, to reflect on the campaign achievements and share good practice, as well as legal and policy solutions identified throughout the 2-year campaign.

Summit delegates were also informed about the upcoming 2018-19 campaign **Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances**.

The online platform economy – OSH challenges and solutions

The rapid growth of the online platform economy is resulting in an increase in non-standard forms of work, such as casual work, on-call work and dependent self-employment. While on-line platforms can increase opportunities to access work; platform work may result in physical and psychosocial OSH risks for workers. A new **report** looks at these challenges and examines the policies and regulations in place or being developed – in Member States and at EU level – to address the risks.

Enterprise Europe Network OSH Award Winner Announced

The third edition of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) occupational safety and health (OSH) Award took place during the EEN Annual Conference in Tallinn on 21 November.

The OSH Award is handed over by DG GROW, EASME and EU-OSHA as a recognition of the excellent work done by **EEN members** in promoting occupational safety and health. This year, the **OSH Award** went to "Between Generations", a project of EEN Centre at the Foundation for Promotion of Entrepreneurship, Lodz, Poland. Due to demographic changes and labour market in Poland the EEN created a Booklet focused on intergenerational cooperation (in line with EU-OSHA's **Healthy Workplaces for All Ages campaign**) and a questionnaire for self-assessment.

Send us your contribution

You have a contribution for the next edition of the newsletter? Please contact the [editor](#).

Contributions to be sent **by 15 March 2018**.

Next edition: April 2018.

We also look forward to your comments and suggestions.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission may be held responsible for the use that may be made of the information contained in this newsletter.

Privacy statement

If you wish to unsubscribe from the Social Dialogue newsletter mailing list, please [send us an email](#).

Publisher: [European Commission](#), [DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion](#), [Social Dialogue Unit](#)
[Contact](#) | [Legal notice](#)