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News from the Commission

On 20 December 2017, the European Commission and the EU Social and Economic partners signed a '[European Partnership for Integration](#)' to support and strengthen opportunities for refugees and migrants legally residing in the EU to integrate into the European labour market.

On 13 March the Commission proposed a '[Social Fairness Package](#)'. It includes proposals for a European Labour Authority (ELA) and a Council Recommendation on access to social protection.

The [Tripartite Social Summit](#) of 21 March debated on the general theme "Delivering on the European Pillar of Social Rights". Participants to the TSS expressed in particular their views on three sub-themes: Reinforcing innovation, job creation and social fairness in the Multiannual Financial Framework; New forms of work: challenges and opportunities for employment and social dialogue, and Economic and social convergence to strengthen growth and resilience.

European social partners presented a [joint statement](#) on the Multiannual Financial Framework post 2020 in which they urged all relevant decision-makers to make sure that the next Multiannual Financial Framework will be in place before the European elections in May 2019.

On 15 March the European Council adopted a recommendation on a framework for quality and effective apprenticeships which will help young people to enter the world of work. This recommendation follows a Commission proposal adopted in October 2017 and was very much welcomed by Commissioner Thyssen.



Hearings & High level meetings

On 10 April a hearing between social partners and Vice-President Šefčovič took place to discuss the third mobility package (clean energy cars) which shall be adopted on 16th May. An important item of discussion



was an action plan on connected and automated mobility, which the Commission will propose.

Legislative Acts

On 5 April the Commission proposed a third batch of substances to be added (with limit values) to the annex of the Carcinogens directive.

Read more:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9076&furtherNews=yes>

Contributions from Social Partners

Cross-Industry

EU cross-industry social partners project results show the need to increase ESF support to capacity building

The cross-industry social partners (BusinessEurope, ETUC, CEEP and UEAPME) presented on 9 March 2018 initial results of their project on "The Role of the European Social Fund (ESF) in Capacity Building of Social Partners". It shows that social partners' needs for capacity building financed through the ESF are currently not met in a number of countries. In their final report social partners present solutions to improve ESF support notably in the next programming period. The key findings and recommendations to the European Commission and the EU Member States will be available soon.

Central Government Administration

Social Partners disappointed by Commission refusal to propose Agreement to the Council

The social partners in central government are disappointed about the European Commission's decision not to propose their information and consultation agreement to the European Council for implementation as a Directive. The social partners disagree with the Commission's reasoning and will address this. They see the decision as undermining the work they do and the established practice of sectoral social dialogue.



Chemical Industry

European social partners launch new project on digitalisation and innovation in the European chemical industry

The European social partners of the chemical industry, industriAll and ECEC have started working on a new [joint project](#) "The impact of innovation and digital transformation in the workplace: a sector-specific study of the European chemical, pharmaceutical, rubber and plastics industry".



Cefic, ECEG and industriAll European Trade Union call for minimal disruption to trade after Brexit.

In a joint [statement](#) Cefic and the Social Partners of the European chemical industry stress the importance of a future post-Brexit relationship that avoids adverse effects on the viability, the international competitiveness and employment in the chemical industry on both sides of the Channel.

Commerce

Agreement on new guidelines for telework and ICT-mobile work

During their Sectoral Social Dialogue meeting in February the European social partners for the commerce sector, UniEuropa and EuroCommerce, reached an agreement on a revised European Agreement on guidelines on Telework and ICT-mobile work in Commerce. It updates the former agreement of 2001, enlarges the scope to ICT-mobile workers and addresses issues like employment conditions, confidentiality and health and safety.

Hospitals and Health Care

HOSPEEM-EPSU Conference on Occupational Safety and Health in Health Care, 23-24 May 2018, Vilnius

On 23 and 24 May 2018, the second conference of the HOSPEEM-EPSU project on effective recruitment and retention policies for health workers will take place in Vilnius, Lithuania, with support by the Lithuanian Trade Union of Health Care Employees (LSADPS). The conference will explore best practices in the field of Occupational Safety and Health, focusing on prevention and reduction of Musculoskeletal Disorders and Psychosocial Risks and Stress at Work. The draft agenda and more information are available on the HOSPEEM and EPSU websites.



Live Performance

How to apply for CITES-certificates?

Crossing international borders for a musician or an ensemble travelling with musical instruments containing species protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), such as ivory, tortoiseshell or rosewood requires in-depth preparation. For this reason, Pearle* and FIM as part of the European sectoral social dialogue committee on live performance launch a short [Guide](#) in English, French, German and Spanish. The aim is to provide hands-on information on how to apply for CITES musical instrument certificates through a step-by-step approach.

Postal Services

Valorising previous results and strengthening the dialogue

The ongoing project "[Promoting Social Dialogue in the postal sector in an enlarged Europe](#)" analyses how postal operators and trade unions manage the digitalisation of their organisations and its impact on competences and training needs. This capacity-building project also promotes the outputs of the SDC Post throughout Europe through regional seminars. Two of them were already organized, in Prague and Vilnius, and the third one takes place in Athens in May. This last seminar will in particular target candidate countries.

Telecommunications

Joining the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

The social partners in telecoms, UNI Europa and the European Telecommunication Network Operators' Association (ETNO), joined in February 2018 the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition.

The Coalition was first launched by the European Commission in December 2016 and aims at helping meet the high demand for digital skills across Europe. The next step is to link this initiative with the ongoing activities of UNI Europa and ETNO as social partners in the telecoms sector.

Further news

EPSU-Report reveals slow progress in closing gender pay gap

A new report from the European Federation of Public Services Unions, EPSU, shows that between 2010 and 2016 the gender pay gap closed more rapidly in public services than in the economy as a whole. While the overall gender pay gap was only 0.3 percentage points (pps) lower, it fell by 1.9 pps in education, 2.2 pps in health and social work and 2.3 pps in public administration.

News from the EU agencies

EUROFOUND

Recently published reports and working papers

- Labour market integration of migrants and their descendants, 15/03/2018
- Pay transparency in Europe: First experiences with gender pay reports and audits in four Member States, 7/02/2018
- Working conditions: Discrimination against men at work, March 2018
- Industrial relations: Statutory minimum wages in the EU 2018, April 2018
- Game changing technologies in European manufacturing: Exploring the impact on production process and work, April 2018
- European Quality of Life Survey 2016, 8/03/2018
- Involvement of the national social partners in the European Semester 2017: Social dialogue practices, 6/03/ 2018
- Mapping varieties of industrial relations: Eurofound's analytical framework applied, 29/01/2018 + Executive summary
- Developing regional industrial policy capacity, 15/01/2018.

New Country updates

Country updates summarise the latest developments at national level providing relevant background information on the structures, institutions and regulations underpinning working life in each country. Recent updates cover 4Q - 2017 in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom. See also EU level.

EU-OSHA

EU-OSHA launches the Healthy Workplaces Campaign 2018-2019

EU-OSHA launches the 2018-19 Healthy Workplaces Campaign 'Manage Dangerous Substances' on 24 April 2018 in Brussels, jointly with the European Commission and the Bulgarian EU Council Presidency. The campaign launch is supported by governments', workers' and employers' representatives. The press launch includes the presentation of the campaign's objectives and messages, a Q&A session with journalists, photo opportunity and a visit to an onsite campaign exhibition.

EU-OSHA launches new website section on prevention of work related diseases

Recent estimates indicate that work-related diseases account for about 200,000 deaths in Europe each year. In line with the EU Strategic Framework on Safety and Health at Work 2014-2020 and to raise awareness and support the prevention of these diseases, including occupational cancers, EU-OSHA has launched a new website section. The page provides evidence based information on prevention, policy and practice on rehabilitation and return to work after cancer and an overview of the Agency's projects on this field.

High-level seminar on ensuring workers' health and safety in micro and small enterprises

EU-OSHA welcomed Commissioner Marianne Thyssen and Governing Board members to a seminar on how to ensure workers' safety and health in micro and small enterprises (MSEs) on 25 January in Bilbao, Spain. The

seminar coincided with the publication of [two reports](#) that explore the latest findings of [EU-OSHA's SESAME project](#) on MSEs.

New video explains how to carry out an online risk assessment with the OiRA tools

EU-OSHA has produced the '[Risk assessment with OiRA in 4 steps](#)' video within the framework of the Online interactive Risk Assessment ([OiRA](#)) project. The video, which is in English with subtitles, highlights risk assessment as the legal cornerstone of the European approach for accidents, occupational diseases and sickness absence prevention at the workplace. It shows viewers how to carry out a sector-specific risk assessment in a flexible and easy way through the [OiRA website](#).

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 June 2018**.

Next edition: July 2018.

We also look forward to your comments and suggestions.

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