A strong social Europe for just transitions

January 2020 #SocialRights

“The transition towards a climate neutral Europe, fit for the digital age, must be just and inclusive. No one should be left behind.”

President Ursula von der Leyen

“Europe is going through a momentous shift. As we go through the green and digital transitions, as well as an ageing population, the Commission wants to ensure that people remain centre stage and that the economy works for them.”

Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice-President for an Economy that Works for People

“Europe’s innovative and inclusive social market economy must be about people: providing them with quality jobs that pay an adequate wage.”

Nicolas Schmit, Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

What are some of today’s challenges?

- Only 1 out of 25 low skilled workers benefits from life-long learning
- Youth unemployment in European regions ranges from 4% to 62%
- The gender pay gap stands at 16%
- Only 50% of persons with disabilities that want to work have a job
- 1 in 4 children are at risk of poverty or social exclusion
- 40% of cancers are preventable
The number of people in employment in the EU is at a record high. But many working people still struggle to make ends meet.

President von der Leyen has promised to ensure that workers in our Union have a fair minimum wage that should allow for a decent living wherever they work.

The Commission wants to hear from social partners - businesses and trade unions - on what action is needed in the EU.