



**Conclusions
of the 15th High Level Meeting
between
the International Labour Organization and the European Commission**

Geneva - Brussels, 2 October 2020

From 29 September until 2 October 2020, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the European Commission (Commission) held their 15th High Level Meeting (HLM) since the renewal of their Exchange of Letters in 2001. This meeting followed the renewal of the mandate of the ILO during its Centenary year.

Transformative changes in the world of work – driven by technological innovations, demographic shifts, climate change and globalisation – as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic underpinned the discussion. The Commission and the ILO discussed their response to these challenges, joint opportunities and how to further strengthen their cooperation. The meeting was also an opportunity to build upon the Strategic Partnership in the field of development cooperation concluded in 2004 by both institutions and was held in the context of the ongoing process of renewing the exchange of letters between them.

Led by the commitment to maintain their well-established and multi-faceted cooperation and adapt it to new challenges, the ILO and the Commission engaged in in-depth discussions over policy developments in the world of work. Both have noted with satisfaction that their cooperation has led to tangible improvements in the world of work, in the four strategic objectives of decent work: employment, social protection, rights at work and social dialogue.

In the current unprecedented context of COVID-19, both organisations have expressed their deep concern about the devastating socio-economic impact of the pandemic for economies, enterprises, workers and employers around the world, in particular in fragile countries and regions, but also in the European Union. They stand united in their commitment to harness their partnership to support sustainable economic recovery, protect workers and help companies thrive again.

Participants shared their visions and policy priorities in light of the renewed mandate of the ILO as set out in the 2019 Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and the political guidance of the new leadership of the Commission and they discussed programmes and activities with a view to identifying guiding elements for the ILO-EU cooperation for the year ahead.

The following conclusions were agreed during the High Level Meeting, to shape the policy context and set out the priorities for ILO-EU cooperation until the next High Level Meeting.

General Conclusions

General conclusions

Since 1958, the ILO and the Commission have built a multifaceted and rich cooperation on employment and social affairs. Acknowledging the achievements of that partnership and the opportunities offered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations (UN) Reform and the renewed mandate of the ILO at its Centenary, as well as the pressing human, economic and social challenges, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, they envisage/intend to enhance their cooperation at several levels by:

1. Strengthening coordination and policy coherence to promote social justice and fairness, decent work and international labour standards in the EU, in third countries and in the global agenda, including in the context of international fora such as G20 and the multilateral system;
2. Working together to promote the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 8, as well as an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through joint actions at both international and multilateral levels and development cooperation, focusing on all aspects of decent work;
3. Intensifying exchanges, reinforcing contributions to each other's initiatives and analytical work on jobs, growth and investment, non-standard forms of employment (including platform work), youth employment, informal economy, global supply chains, just transition to a carbon-free economy, skills development and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), social protection, gender equality and women's empowerment, migration and refugees, working conditions, occupational safety and health (OSH), child labour, forced labour, freedom of association and discrimination at work, social dialogue including capacity-building measures, as well as digitalisation and other long-term trends in the world of work;
4. Continuing to support the improvement of national capacities in the field of decent work;
5. Keeping each other regularly informed on the promotion and implementation of international labour standards and of human rights in the EU and in partner countries;
6. Promoting contacts between EU Delegations and ILO Offices at country level and other mechanisms to strengthen the contribution to each other's work;
7. Consulting each other on issues of common interest requiring immediate attention;
8. Renewing their Exchange of Letters.

The Commission intends to:

9. Inform the ILO on developments in its policy to promote decent work and on the update of its 2006 Communication on 'Promoting decent work for all – the European Union (EU) contribution to the implementation of the decent work agenda in the world', in the light of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Strategic Orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

Future of Work, EU pillar of social rights and recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The ILO and the Commission stand united in the objective to contribute to an inclusive and sustainable recovery and renew their commitment to work towards a human-centred Future of Work, based on the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic hit economies hard everywhere, increasing unemployment levels, affecting vulnerable workers disproportionately, pushing marginalised groups into poverty, widening inequalities and challenging the survival of companies in different sectors. Unprecedented measures have been taken to respond immediately to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the world of work, including through short-term work schemes, social protection and social dialogue. Building back better is of key importance to both the ILO and the EU to support an inclusive and sustainable recovery and to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the long term.

Building back better in order to achieve social justice requires workers' rights to be respected everywhere, including the right to adequate social protection, regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship. Addressing the changing nature of jobs, and making the achievement of social justice and fairness an agenda for today and tomorrow, continues to remain a shared aim of the ILO and the Commission.

The ILO and the Commission intend to:

1. Cooperate in documenting and promoting initiatives aimed at facilitating an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
2. Continue to share information on their research and analytical work on long-term changes in the world of work and reinforce each other's initiatives aimed at shaping a human-centred future of work and cooperate in implementing the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work;
3. Share information and hold regular exchanges on initiatives of common interest such as on social dialogue, platform work and other non-standard forms of employment, minimum wages, working conditions and OSH, skills, youth employment, inequalities, disadvantaged groups of workers in vulnerable situations, social protection, and employment policies. Explore opportunities for cooperation in these areas;
4. Jointly promote research findings and exchange on the implementation of these findings;
5. Explore opportunities for collaboration on innovative research and exchange of experiences in the field of social protection fit for the future of work in the EU and in global fora;
6. Jointly promote responsible business conduct as a key pillar of building back better;
7. Invite each other to and participate in each other's meetings and events on the above topics.

The ILO intends to:

8. Contribute to relevant consultations, such as regarding the Action Plan for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the initiative on improving working conditions of platform workers.

The Commission intends to:

9. Contribute to the implementation of the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work.

Strategic Orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

Trade and labour, International labour Standards

The ILO and the Commission have developed a strong cooperation in the area of international labour standards, which is of particular relevance to trade, development cooperation and the promotion of human rights. This cooperation includes joint research, projects supporting the effective implementation of international labour standards and promotion of the ratification of international labour standards, as well as responsible business conduct in the supply chain.

The ILO and the Commission intend to:

1. Continue their cooperation with respect to the promotion and effective application of fundamental principles and rights at work and up-to-date international labour standards;
2. Strengthen their cooperation to promote the ratification of fundamental conventions in the context of trade and investment agreements and trade preferences. Explore cooperation in respect of civil society fora and areas of mutual interest on occupational safety and health, labour inspection, elimination of child labour and decent work in global supply chains;
3. Strengthen their cooperation for capacity building of ILO tripartite constituents on trade and labour matters including responsible business conduct on fundamental principles and rights at work, in line with the guidance provided in the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy (MNE Declaration);
4. Develop synergies on employment impact assessments of trade and sectoral policies and the implementation of research methodologies and findings;
5. Recognise positive outcomes of their Trade4Decent work programme, hold regular discussions on how to increase the impact of their cooperation in respect of specific thematic areas (due diligence, core labour standards) as well as at country level. Reinforce links between EU Delegations and ILO country offices. In this respect, continue to be vigilant for COVID-19 impacts and the possible need to adjust planned actions;
6. Pay particular attention to the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work and Occupational Safety and Health in joint development cooperation activities and in the context of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), as well as to indicators measuring the impact of joint projects;
7. Strengthen their cooperation to promote the ratification and effective application of up to date instruments by EU Member States, in particular the Forced Labour Protocol P29, the Work in Fishing Convention C188, the Domestic Workers Convention C189 and the Violence and Harassment Convention C190;
8. Better disseminate the results of their cooperation.

Strategic Orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

<p>Promoting Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)</p>	<p>For decades, Occupational Safety and Health has been at the heart of ILO and EU policies and legal frameworks for the world of work. Over the last few years, the fundamental importance of safe and healthy working conditions to decent work has been underlined in the European Pillar of Social Rights and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work as well as in international fora. The ILO and the Commission have strengthened their efforts to promote and ensure safe and healthy working conditions and developed cooperation to that end.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored that safe and healthy working conditions are essential for decent work, which also needs to be ensured during the pandemic, and that OSH plays a fundamental role in the sustainable reopening of businesses and in avoiding further outbreaks.</p> <p>The ILO and the Commission intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step up their cooperation to promote OSH globally and to catalyse and disseminate OSH knowledge, in particular through the Global Coalition for Safety and Health at Work; 2. Jointly promote the ratification and effective implementation of International Labour standards on OSH and labour inspection; 3. Continue their joint activities to support and promote OSH in developing countries and in global supply chains, including through the Flagship Programme Safety and Health for All, and its Vision Zero Fund and explore mechanisms to increase impact; 4. Exchange information on initiatives of mutual interest regarding OSH in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>The Commission intends to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Continue actively preparing the EU support to ILO decisions regarding the inclusion of safe and healthy working conditions in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work in follow-up to the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and related Resolution; 6. Share its legal experience in view of ILO standards review on OSH, in particular regarding chemical and biological hazards. <p>The ILO intends to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Contribute to relevant EU consultations, such as regarding the new occupational safety and health strategy.
<p>Gender Equality in the World of Work</p>	<p>Promoting equal treatment and equal opportunities between women and men, including equal pay for work of equal value, is high on both the ILO's and the EU's agendas, and represents a key aspect under the European Pillar of Social Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The new ILO Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No.190) and its supplementing Recommendation (No.206), the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, including its binding measures on pay transparency, violence against women and domestic violence and on the representation of women on corporate boards, as well as the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative to eliminate violence against women and girls, provide further opportunities to cooperate in this field.</p> <p>In particular, additional efforts for gender equality are needed in view of the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, which exacerbates existing gender inequalities in both the formal and the informal economy, including with regard to pay, working conditions, unpaid care work, and violence and harassment. Women are also over-represented among front-line workers, in particular in health and social work, facing significant health-related risks.</p>

Strategic Orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

	<p>The ILO and the Commission intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step up their cooperation to advance a transformative gender equality agenda in the world of work in line with Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 8, including through gender-responsive policies as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and strengthen partnerships to that end; 2. Explore cooperation opportunities on equal pay, including through the promotion of ILO fundamental conventions on Equal remuneration (C100) and Discrimination (employment and occupation) (C111) as well as exchange information and build synergies with the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC) and exchange information on the establishment of binding pay transparency measures in the EU; 3. Exchange information and develop cooperation on care work and care leave policies, including in the context of the COVID-19 response and recovery process, guided by relevant ILO standards such as the Conventions on Workers with Family Responsibilities (C156), Maternity Protection (C183) and Domestic Workers (C189) as well as the implementation of the Work-life Balance Directive and the European Pillar of Social Rights; 4. Cooperate in promoting the ratification and effective implementation of the Violence and Harassment Convention 2019, both by the EU Member States and worldwide, including in the context of the UN and the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and the legislative initiative on violence against women in the EU foreseen for 2021; 5. Organise an event on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention to support the ratification and implementation of C189 by the EU Member States and EU partner countries; 6. Facilitate contacts between EU Institutions, EU Delegations and ILO Offices to disseminate outcomes of joint projects, leverage their cooperation on gender equality, including women migrants and violence and harassment in the world of work. <p>The Commission intends to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Keep the ILO informed on the progress of the EU pay transparency initiative and explore the possibility of becoming a member of the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC); 8. Keep the ILO informed about the implementation of the EU Gender Action Plan III (An Ambitious agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU external action) whose adoption is expected by the end of 2020 and organise a follow-up meeting to this purpose early 2021.
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Issues addressed in technical meetings

<p>Strategic Partnership on Development Cooperation: advancing the Decent Work Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>The engagement on development cooperation of the European Commission with the ILO is substantial in strategic alignment and in volume. The European Union is the ILO's largest funding partner and represents a strategic likeminded policy partner to advance the Decent Work Agenda.</p> <p>The EU supports the UN and the ILO in realising the development system reform. The UN reform represents a particular opportunity to promote the Decent Work Agenda across the SDGs, as well as to bring the normative and tripartite value-added of the ILO at the centre of coherent UN support at country level. The partners emphasize the importance of working together for greater efficiencies, coherence in decent work policies, strengthened engagement with the IFIs - and</p>
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	<p>in operationalizing, implementing and delivering relevant support services, especially at country level.</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to reverse decades of progress made on sustainable development and the fight against poverty. The EU and the ILO embrace the UN-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They are committed to promoting a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery that helps partner countries to “build back better and greener”. They will work together to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, leaving no one behind.</p> <p>The ILO and the Commission intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to work in strategic partnership to promote the Decent Work Agenda in its four dimensions: job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue, with gender equality as a crosscutting objective. Particular focus will be put on child labour and forced labour, building sustainable and shock-resistant social protection systems, supporting the transition from informal to formal economy, developing sustainable value chains. 2. A priority area for joint work will be the creation of decent jobs, especially for young people and women, through comprehensive employment policies, sustainable investment, responsible business and improvement of people’s employability through the expansion of more labour-market oriented VET. 3. Cooperate to address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by developing joint policy measures and actions to support employment creation and retention, particularly for the vulnerable groups, women, people with disabilities, low-income workers; reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion; protect workers in the workplace and foster social dialogue. 4. Foster cooperation at country and regional level between EU Delegations and ILO offices and actively encourage country-level exchanges around decent work priorities.
<p>Forced Labour and Child Labour in Global Supply Chains</p>	<p>Promoting decent work in global supply chains has been high on ILO and EU agenda in the past few years, in particular as regards the elimination of child labour and forced labour, the promotion of Occupational Safety and Health and the promotion of responsible business conduct. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of secure and safe supply chains.</p> <p>The ILO and the Commission intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperate through a new project on promoting decent work in global supply chains for a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis; 2. Implement cooperation projects on child labour and forced labour in cotton value chains and on Responsible Supply Chains in partner countries; 3. Build on the results of their joint research on OSH in global supply chains to engage in joint advocacy. Explore other areas of joint research; 4. Further cooperate to promote decent work in supply chains, including on safer workplaces, in the context of the G20, the G7, the Vision Zero Fund and in other relevant fora; 5. Continue respective and joint efforts to prevent child labour and forced labour, address the vulnerability of children and adults to child labour and forced labour and protect the victims; 6. Consider setting up a mechanism for regular consultations between the Commission and ILO services to discuss child labour and forced labour including in Global Supply Chains as well as to improve coordination,

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	<p>maximise the impact of the cooperation and identify areas for strengthened cooperation. Areas to be explored could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promotion of a whole-of-supply-chain approach to responsible business conduct in line with the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises; b. Development and validation of tools for measuring the prevalence of child labour and forced labour in supply chains. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Explore how to scale up joint and respective efforts to ensure effectiveness of interventions in Alliance 8.7, such as by continuing to prioritize country-level action in lower tiers of supply chains, in particular in those countries hit hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; 8. Explore possibilities to cooperate and promote the implementation of the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour, and to encourage all relevant stakeholders to support activities taking place under its umbrella; 9. Continue and possibly increase joint efforts to promote fair recruitment, noting the expected increase in job seekers looking for employment abroad. <p>The Commission intends to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Participate in the preparation of the V Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour; 11. Continue to support the Alliance 8.7 and consider becoming a member; 12. Inform the ILO about its revision of the non-financial reporting directive and its initiative on sustainable corporate governance planned for 2021. <p>The ILO intends to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Share information on ILO's extensive experience in tackling child labour in supply chains, through the IPEC+ flagship programme, ILO business networks and PPPs, Alliance 8.7 and IPCCLA (International Partnership for Cooperation on Child Labour in Agriculture).
<p>Promoting Decent Work in Asia</p>	<p>The ILO and the Commission can build on their long-standing cooperation for the promotion of decent work in Asia and the outcomes achieved. They intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue their cooperation to promote decent work in an integrated manner, based on the fundamental principles and rights at work, as well as responsible business conduct and sustainable investment and to use their convening power to develop innovative partnerships with relevant stakeholders; including peer-to-peer learning and good-practice approaches. 2. Work together, including in the context of the Responsible Supply Chains in Asia project, to leverage the private sector contribution to decent work by promoting responsible business conduct in line with internationally agreed standards, in particular the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises. 3. Strengthen their cooperation regarding decent work in domestic work and in the fishing sector in the region, including through the promotion of ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention 189 and the Work in Fishing Convention 188 and through continued cooperation such as in the context of the ship to shore rights and the Safe and Fair projects. <p>The ILO and the European Commission/European External Action Services (EEAS) further intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Support Asian countries in their efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 underlining the importance of decent work for a fair, sustainable and resilient recovery;

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Make full use of different instruments to promote decent work and responsible business conduct in Asia, in particular EU trade, development cooperation (including in the new programming phase 2021-2027) and bilateral dialogues; 6. Promote the ratification and effective application of ILO Fundamental Conventions in the region.
Maritime, Fishing and Shipbreaking Issues	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of cooperation at international level between the EU, the ILO and the IMO to consider seafarers and fishermen as key workers, find solutions to enable the safe change of crews and shore leave and improve their highly exposed situation.</p> <p>The ILO has a long-standing experience in setting International Labour Standards in the maritime transport and fishing sectors, both highly internationalized and presenting particular risks regarding working and living conditions on board. These standards are implemented in the EU through agreements between social partners and legislation (at the national or EU levels, depending on the competence the standards touch upon). Both the ILO and the EU have also taken initiatives in the fields of ocean governance and ship recycling, with the EU promoting ratification of relevant international standards.</p> <p>The ILO and the Commission intend to continue, building on previous experience, to engage in a more structured exchange of information and cooperation, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to hold regular meetings and explore the possibility of participating in each other's trainings and to exchange information relevant to the implementation and supervisions of relevant instruments; 2. Continue to cooperate, including through joint projects, to promote decent work and sustainable fishing, based on the ILO Work in Fishing Convention and other relevant standards. Explore cooperation opportunities for capacity building, within the EU and in non-EU States, with a particular focus on those States where ratification and/or implementation will result in environmental and societal benefits; 3. Cooperate in the promotion of ratification and implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended, in partner countries and cooperate in the implementation of the corresponding EU directives in the EU, including exchanges of information regarding implementation, and address challenges in application identified by the Commission and the ILO such as the regulation of recruitment agencies, social security, seafarers' employment agreements and the effective enforcement of the limits to hours of work and rest; 4. Give particular attention to the functioning of recruitment and placement services in the shipping and fishing sectors in labour supplying countries, compliance and enforcement issues, capacity building efforts and seeking synergies on training issues between the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the International Training Centre of the ILO (ITC/ILO), and facilitating the exchange of this information, including good practices, with non-EU States; 5. Coordinate, as appropriate, on promoting decent work in the context of SDG 14, the Blue Economy and the EU International Ocean Governance Forum; 6. Discuss cooperation between ILO and the EU on the COVID-19 pandemic and related actions, more specifically, however not limited to, the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cooperate on the ratification and implementation of the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003, as amended (No. 185), in light of lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to facilitate the movement of seafarers. b. Continue cooperating on crew changes issues in the context of the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, as amended (MLC), if any

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	<p>proposals were planned to be submitted by Constituents to amend the Code of the MLC, 2006.</p> <p>Ship recycling The ILO and EU intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Continue their constructive exchange of information about ship recycling challenges and opportunities, including in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan; 8. Explore cooperation in facilitating the sharing of information, knowledge and good practices among industry stakeholders to help bring about a safer and more sustainable ship recycling industry; 9. Explore the possibility of a joint project on ship recycling in India to implement the necessary improvements that are called for in the Hong Kong Convention, the ILO declarations, conventions and guidelines and by the EU in its audit of Indian ship recycling yards.
Social Dialogue	<p>The ILO and the Commission have developed an intense cooperation for the promotion of social dialogue, which is key to both institutions, in particular through research and capacity building, in the EU and beyond. A well-functioning social dialogue is particularly important for achieving the SDGs, promoting an inclusive recovery and a just transition to an environmentally sustainable economy and addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The ILO and the Commission intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work together to leverage their cooperation in the areas of research and capacity building of social dialogue actors and institutions based on past or on-going joint projects, including with the ITC/ILO and exchange information on the application of the international labour standards relevant to social dialogue and collective bargaining in the EU. 2. Reinvigorate the partnership and explore the opportunities for new areas of cooperation stemming from the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work, the ILO Plan of Action on Social Dialogue and Tripartism (2019-2023) and the Conclusions of the Tripartite Meeting of Experts on Cross-border Social Dialogue, as well as the EU policies relevant to social dialogue, in particular regarding: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Themes related to the Future of work; b. The role of social dialogue actors and institutions in addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, returning to a “better normal” and in contributing to an inclusive and sustainable recovery; c. The creation of an ILO repository of knowledge on Cross-border Social Dialogue, building on existing databases, such as the Commission-ILO database on Transnational Company Agreements (TCAs) to be regularly updated; 3. Continue to cooperate in the area of training and capacity building of social partners, such as the ITC/ILO Academies for Employers and Trade Unions, in partnership with the International and European social partners in line with the applicable provisions and political priorities. In the context of the current and post COVID-19 pandemic, jointly consider the adaptations required. 4. Carry out a review of joint projects implemented in non-EU countries, so as to identify opportunities for strengthening the promotion of social dialogue enhancing the capacities of governments and social partners, engaging local social partners in project design and implementation and addressing the medium and longer term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Promoting Decent Work in Africa	<p>The Commission and the ILO will build on their cooperation for the promotion of decent work with Africa. In the context of the new EU Comprehensive strategy for Africa and the future post-Cotonou agreement, they intend to:</p>

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue their cooperation to promote the Decent Work agenda in an integrated manner so as to support inclusive human development in Africa; 2. Support African countries in their efforts to address the impact of COVID-19 by reiterating the importance of decent work for a fair, sustainable and resilient recovery; 3. Promote the ratification and effective implementation of international labour standards in the region, including OSH, social security and employment policy. <p>The Commission and the ILO will strive to support the above objectives by focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Decent work creation especially for young people and women through robust employment policies, sustainable investment, labour-oriented skills development including TVET systems and eradication of child labour, the strengthening and expansion of social protection systems, and the transition from the informal to the formal economy including peer-to-peer learning and good-practice approaches; 5. Identifying key supply chains and leveraging the private sector contribution to decent work in these by promoting responsible business conduct in line with internationally agreed standards, in particular the ILO MNE Declaration, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD MNE Guidelines; 6. Promoting safe and fair labour migration and mobility.
Promoting skills development and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training)	<p>The Commission and the ILO will build on their cooperation for improving the employability of workers, promoting productive and decent work, and increasing the productivity of enterprises through better quality and relevant training. They intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cooperate in promoting initiatives aimed at mitigating the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring increased investment in people and their skills for a sustainable recovery. 2. Continue to share information on their research and analytical work on skills and lifelong learning as a foundation for long-term and sustainable growth, productivity and innovation. A particular area of mutual interest will be the sectoral approach to skills development. Jointly promote research findings and exchange on the implementation of these findings. 3. Share information and hold exchanges on initiatives of common interest such as on individual learning accounts, quality apprenticeships, skills needs assessments, anticipation and measuring the skills mismatch, skills for a digital and green transition, micro-credentials and youth employment. Explore opportunities for cooperation in these areas. 4. Invite each other to and participate in each other's meetings and events on the above-mentioned topics (e.g. a joint meeting on Apprenticeships in 2021, an event on Talent Partnerships for legal pathways for labour migration).
Just transition to a carbon-neutral economy	<p>The EU Green Deal and the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work offer ambitious, coherent and timely frameworks for the Commission and the ILO to step up their collaboration to advance social justice, decent work and a just transition for all.</p> <p>The Commission and the ILO intend to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold regular discussions between relevant Commission and ILO services for updates and exchange of information on the respective actions and cooperation concerning just transition to a carbon-neutral economy and a sustainable recovery from COVID-19; 2. Cooperate at global level, including in relation to the COP 26, to promote just transition policies, including in the COVID-19 recovery context;

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Explore how to work together on certain topics and to trigger complementary action at national level, in particular in emerging and developing economies and develop joint initiatives. Such cooperation could take place within the Climate Action for Jobs Initiative; 4. Cooperate on research and analysis to keep advancing a positive narrative on the employment and social effects of ambitious action against climate change, leveraging research capacities in the two institutions, and undertaking joint research and analysis; 5. Cooperate on best practices regarding the integration of employment and social aspects in climate and energy policy planning tools and explore possible joint actions aimed at the promotion of such tools in the international context; 6. Explore possibilities of cooperation regarding capacity building on just transition, sharing of country experiences, and international collaboration in the field of just transition.
Preparation of forthcoming key international events	<p>The ILO and the Commission intend to maintain close cooperation regarding relevant high-level international events taking place, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Conference on Responsible Global Supply Chains, organised by the German Presidency on 6 October 2020; 2. The international year for the Elimination of child labour 2021; 3. The 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Domestic Workers Convention C189 in June 2021; 4. The International Labour Conference 2021 agenda items on Inequalities in the world of work, strategic objective of social protection, Skills and lifelong learning and Application of standards; 5. The ILO European regional Meeting in 2021 or 2022; 6. The first Vision Zero Fund high-level forum (HLF) that will take place in February 2021.