

Have your say on reinforcing Social Europe - submit your contribution

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Thank you for expressing your views on the implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#). Please reply to the questions below and submit your contribution in one of the following ways:

Personal information

*** Name**

*** E-mail**

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- as an **individual** in your personal capacity?
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an **organisation**?

*** Name of organisation**

*** Type of organisation**

- Administration
- Civil society
- Industry
- Social partner
- Think tank
- University
- Other

*** Your organisation is operating at:**

- EU level
- national level
- regional level
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Submit your contribution

*** Your contribution is:**

- input for new initiatives at EU, national, regional or local level
- a pledge

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In the Communication "A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions", published on 14 January 2020, the European Commission indicated several initiatives to be taken in 2020-2021 contributing to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and invited all stakeholders to present their views on further action needed and to pledge their commitments to implement the Pillar. We agree that, after three years of the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Pillar has reinforced the EU's social dimension. It is essential to advance further the EU's social dimension vis-à-vis other strategic commitments, particularly, the European Green Deal and the Digital Agenda.

A considerable part of the principles is already a part of different policies in Latvia. However, with the proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, we noted that full implementation of a number of principles, mainly in the areas of minimum income, housing, healthcare and long-term care, inclusion of persons with disabilities, occupational safety and health, would require more consideration and significant resources at the national level. In line with the National Development Plan for 2021 – 2027, Latvia is

committed to further improving the situation in these areas also by allocating additional resources and, where possible, with the support of the EU funds. For example, significant national budgetary resources have been assigned to raise income for the most vulnerable groups from 2021. Specific policy directions and activities for 2021 – 2027 are defined in the Social Protection and Labour Market Policy Guidelines and Children, Youth and Family Policy Guidelines that currently are being finalised by the Ministry of Welfare to be adopted in the first half of 2021.

Despite the unprecedented challenges caused by the covid-19 pandemic, the European Commission has delivered most of its social initiatives planned for 2020 in addition to the urgent measures that were adopted to address the social consequences of the pandemic. The initiatives announced for 2021 could further contribute to the improvement of the social situation in the EU. For example, it is important to ensure that the Child Guarantee promotes investments to address child poverty at the EU level guaranteeing that all children have a fair start in their life. Similarly, the protection of workers in the platform economy and other new forms of work needs attention at the EU level, considering that the covid-19 crisis has accelerated the take up of new technologies and increased use of remote work that will continue beyond the pandemic. In view of new initiatives, it should be emphasised that, prior to increasing the EU regulatory burden, the use of other tools should be thoroughly assessed, like recommendations, guidelines, etc.

As the European Pillar of Social Rights covers a broad set of principles, it requires a well-designed and efficient implementation mechanism. The experience with the “Europe 2020” strategy has shown that setting the strategic goals can support social improvements at the national level and promote upward convergence at the EU level. The European Semester has supported the development of national policies and the implementation of reforms that are geared towards the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Further integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals into those processes could be beneficial as well.

In this context, the future action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights should play a prominent role and be a considerable part of a successor strategy to the “Europe 2020” strategy, supporting digital and green transitions and addressing the demographic challenges. The involvement of social partners and civil society organisations is important for a successful implementation of the Pillar. The action plan should also consider the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the way people live and work in the EU by promoting innovative solutions in social policies and supporting labour market transformations.

At the same time, the action plan should respect the different social models and national practices in the EU Member States. The focus should remain on achieving better social and labour market outcomes while respecting the diversity of national circumstances and approaches. In this regard, taking sufficient account of this diversity might be needed in further discussions on the European Commission’s proposal for a directive on adequate minimum wages as well.

To conclude, we appreciate the European Commission’s determination to keep social rights high on the agenda and acknowledge the need for a strategic action plan to support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights especially during the EU’s recovery from the covid-19 crisis.

3. You can also [submit your contribution by email](#) to the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Final questions

*** 1. How did you find out about this consultation?**

- Social media advertisement
- Advertisement in specialised magazines/ journals
- European Commission website
- Event I attended
- Word of mouth
- Other

*** 2. Has participating in this consultation changed your attitude towards the EU?**

- Yes, I have a more positive attitude towards the EU
- Yes, I have a more negative attitude towards the EU
- No, it has not changed my attitude towards the EU

Contact

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