



Deutscher Bundestag

**Conference folder for the participants in the
video conference:**

For a social and fair Europe

Berlin, 9th November 2020



For a social and fair Europe

Video conference on 9 November 2020

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For a social and fair Europe

Video conference on 9 November 2020

Programme

Conference of Chairpersons of committees from national parliaments and the European Parliament responsible for employment and social affairs, economic cooperation and development.

14.00 **Welcome and opening remarks by the Vice-President of the German Bundestag Petra Pau**

14.10 **Session 1**
Bringing to life the European Pillar of Social Rights

Chaired by: **Dr Matthias Bartke**
Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Labour and Social Affairs

Keynote address: **Nicolas Schmit**
European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

Keynote statement: **Klára Dobrev**
Vice-President of the European Parliament
Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs
Rapporteur on the employment and social policies of the euro area 2020

Keynote statement: **Detlef Scheele**
Chairman of the Executive Board of the Federal Employment Agency

14.35 **Discussion**

Possible points for discussion:

To what extent has the European Pillar of Social Rights so far helped to reinforce the social dimension of the EU?

What aspects of the pillar have been more in focus during the COVID-19 pandemic and are helping in reacting to the crisis?

What gaps in the member states' social security systems has the COVID-19 pandemic also highlighted?

In what ways should the member states cooperate more closely to combat the effects of the pandemic, particularly in view of the continued rise in unemployment to be expected?

What should be the next measures taken at EU level to improve working conditions?

How do you view the current proposal by the European Commission concerning a directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union?

15.45

Break

16.15

Session 2

Responsibility throughout global supply chains: A European plan of action

Chaired by: **Uwe Kekeritz**

Deputy Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development

Keynote address: **Didier Reynders**

European Commissioner for Justice

Keynote statement: **Lara Wolters**

Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs
Rapporteur on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability

Keynote statement: **Dr Annette Niederfranke**

Director of the Office for Germany of the International Labour Organisation

16.40

Discussion

Possible points for discussion:

How can the EU make a global contribution to fair working conditions, particularly in third countries with which it trades?

Do we need legislative provisions at EU level, with binding requirements on due diligence and accountability for European companies throughout their global supply chains?

What economic sectors should be covered by legislation at EU level and what standards should it include?

What impacts would such EU-level provisions have on the competitiveness of European businesses?

17.50

Final remarks

18.00

End of the video conference

To ensure simultaneous interpretation
Please be so kind and use your headset.



Thank you!

Video Conference Guide for Webex and Interprefy

General information

The video conference including the original spoken audio (floor) will be transmitted via Webex. Simultaneous interpretation of the conference will be provided from German, English and French into German, English and French via the platform Interprefy.

If you have any technical questions or difficulties, please contact either support.bundestag@pool.de or +49 2572 920 164.

Technical information

Please make sure you comply with the following technical requirements to ensure good video and audio quality – otherwise it will not be possible for your contribution to be interpreted.

- Use a stable LAN internet connection with sufficient bandwidth of at least 10 Mbit/s (please do not use a wireless network).
- When you take the floor during the conference use a high-quality external microphone, for instance in the form of a headset. Please do **not** use the built-in microphones on your laptop or PC, as these do not ensure sufficiently good audio quality.
- Sit in an evenly lit, bright place.
- Position your camera so that there is a good view of you in the video window that the other participants will see. The camera should be roughly at eye level. The background should be tidy and not distracting.
- Device for participating in the Webex conference: laptop or PC with built-in or external HD webcam, or a dedicated Webex device. To listen to the original audio (floor), you will need internal or external speakers.
- If you want to **listen to the simultaneous interpreting**, you have to open an additional window for the Interprefy platform in your internet browser (see below).
- Please do not log out during the break.

System/IT information

Please note you will need the following to avoid problems when installing and connecting to Cisco Webex:

- Authorisation to download and run .exe and .msi files or to share the programmes via the relevant software centre (if administration is organised centrally, i.e. via the IT department or system administrator).
- USB read and write permission
- Audio and microphone input must be activated.
- Authorisation for your browser to access the camera, microphone and speakers.
- You will need to allow Cisco Webex to bypass proxy settings in your browser and your in-house network or the configuration of the proxy server and firewall.
- More information on security during Cisco Webex meetings is available here: <https://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/products/collateral/conferencing/webex-meeting-center/white-paper-c11-737588.pdf?dtid=ossdc000283>

Participating in a video conference using Cisco Webex and using Interpretify to listen to the simultaneous interpreting

Participating in a Webex meeting

1. Please open the link in your e-mail invitation to the Webex meeting

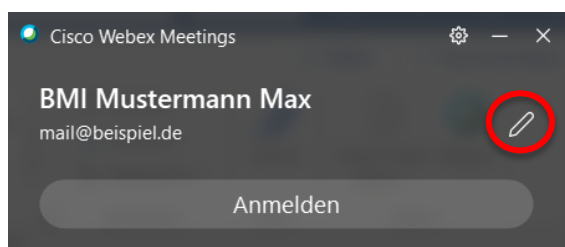
Option 1: Participate from the Webex Meetings app

→ If the Cisco Webex Meetings app is already installed on your PC, open the app by clicking on the link to the meeting.



Before joining the meeting, change your information in the programme to:

iso-code for your country / Last name / First name
e.g. DEU Mustermann Max



Option 2: Participate from your web browser

→ You can also participate using your web browser: click on [Join from your browser.](#)



If you are participating from your browser, enter your information as follows:

iso-code for your country / Last name / First name
e.g. DEU Mustermann Max

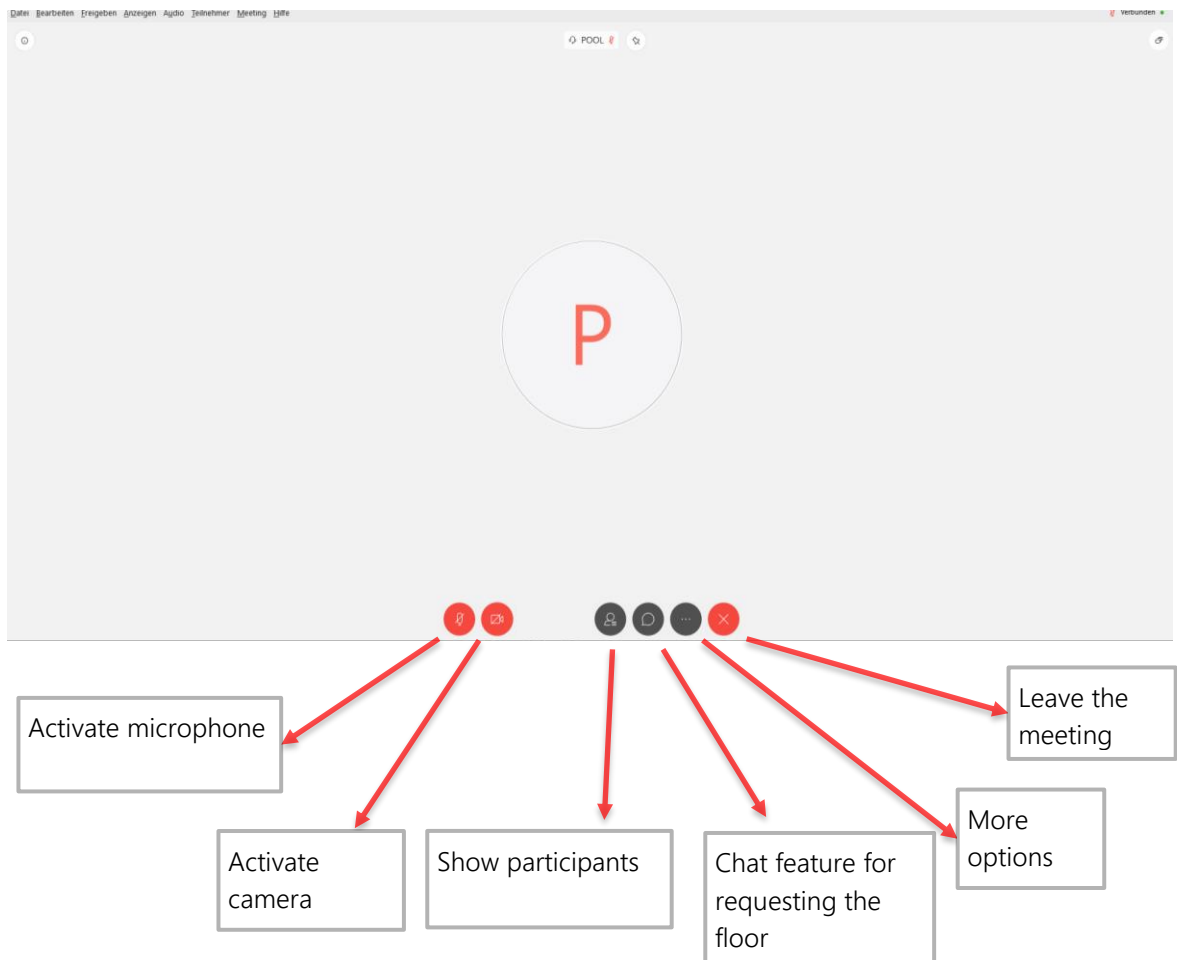
2. Before joining the meeting, please activate your camera and mute your microphone.



3. Then click on „Join Meeting“.



Webex features during the video conference



4. Using the chat feature to request the floor:

- You should only use the chat feature to request the floor – please direct your contentual questions via direct chat message to us.
- Please do not use the chat feature for any other communication. If, for instance, you need technical support please call the technical hotline (see below).

How to request the floor:

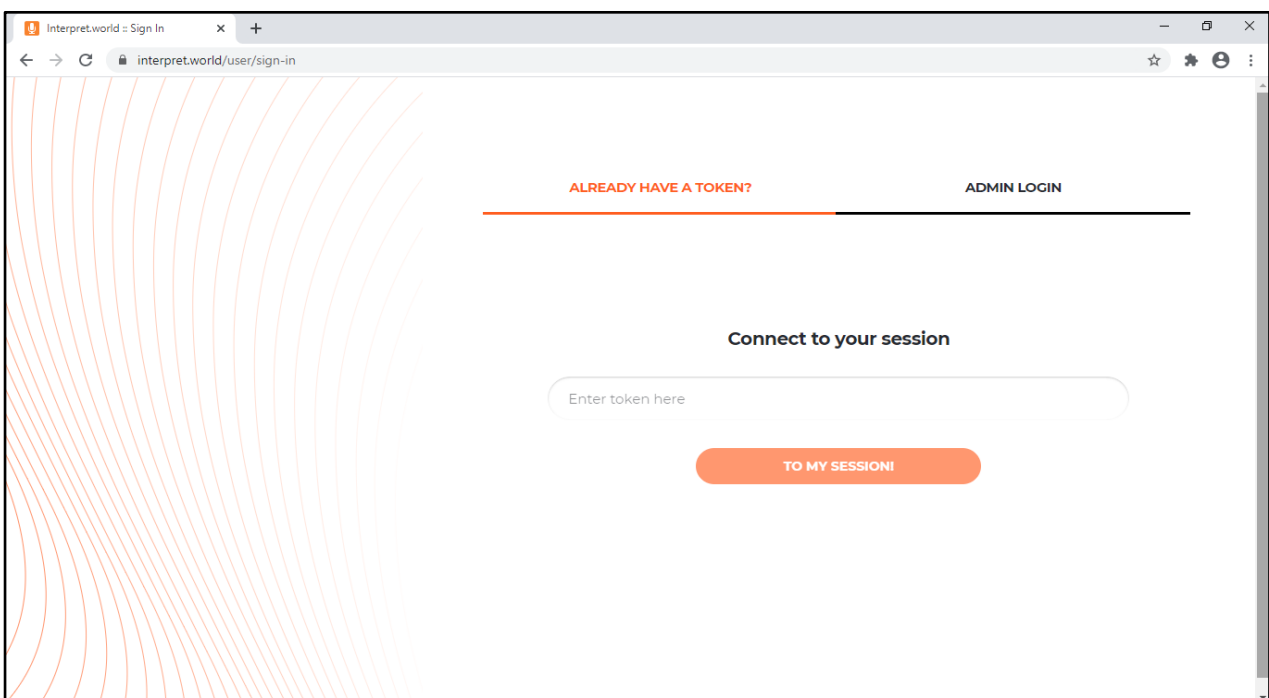
- Enter your three-digit country code, your last name and the language you will be speaking and send it to the chat.
- You will receive a private message that you are up next whilst the speaker before you is still speaking.
- Wait until you are given the floor by the chair of the meeting.
- Once you have been given the floor, please activate your microphone.
- Speaking time is limited to two minutes. The chair reserves the right to shorten or lengthen this speaking time, depending on how many participants are requesting the floor.
- Once you have finished speaking, please do not forget to mute your microphone again.

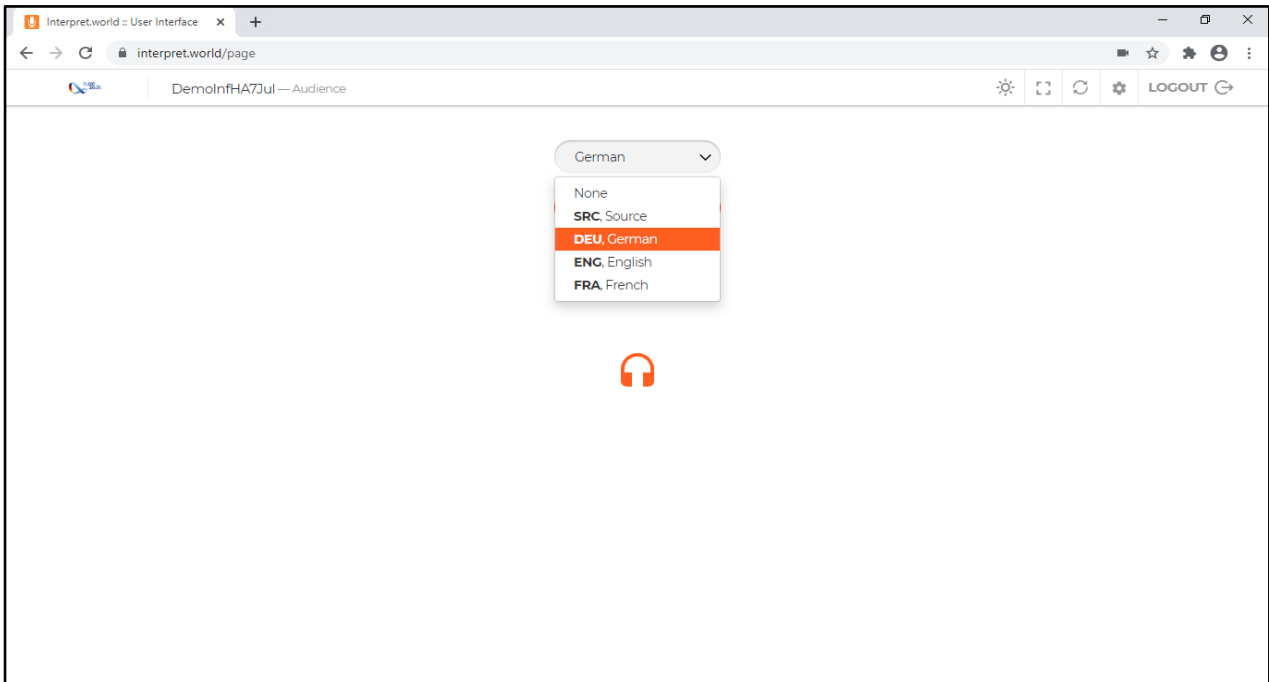
5. Using Interprefy from your web browser to listen to the simultaneous interpretation

We recommend you use the Google Chrome browser and a wired internet connection for this.

Use the link: <https://interpret.world/user/sign-in>

Participants using Interprefy receive a separate e-mail with an event access token allowing them to log in. Enter your token → Press „To my session!“ → Plug in your headset → Choose a language





Help in the event of technical problems

- If you have any technical questions or difficulties, please contact either support.bundestag@pool.de or +49 2572 920 164.
- For any other questions relating to the conference please contact either socialeurope2020@bundestag.de or +49 30 227 33766.

For a social and fair Europe

Video conference on 9 November 2020

Curricula vitae



Petra Pau

Vice-President of the German Bundestag (The Left Party parliamentary group)

- Member of the German Bundestag's Committee on Internal Affairs and Community and substitute member of the Committee on the Digital Agenda
- Since 1998: Member of the German Bundestag and, since 2006, its Vice-President
- 1995 to 1998: Member of the Berlin House of Representatives

Session 1



Dr Matthias Bartke

Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Labour and Social Affairs (SPD parliamentary group)

- Spokesman of the SPD group on the German Bundestag's Committee for the Scrutiny of Elections, Immunity and the Rules of Procedure
- Since 2013: Member of the German Bundestag
- 2013: Head of the legal department of the Hamburg social security office
- 2011 to 2013: Head of the presidium and senators' office of the Hamburg social security office



Nicolas Schmit

European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights

- 2019: Member of the European Parliament (S&D Group)
- 2013 to 2018: Minister for Labour, Employment and the Social and Solidarity Economy, Luxembourg
- 2009 to 2013: Minister for Labour, Employment and Immigration, Luxembourg
- 2004 to 2009: Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Luxembourg



Klára Dobrev

Vice-President of the European Parliament (S&D Group)

- Member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs and rapporteur on the employment and social policies of the euro area 2020
- Substitute member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
- Since 2019: Member of the European Parliament

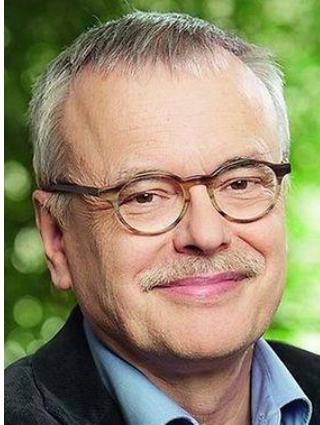


Detlef Scheele

Chairman of the Executive Board of the Federal Employment Agency

- Since 2015: Member of the Executive Board of the Federal Employment Agency and, since 2017, its Chairman
- 2011 to 2015: Senator for Labour, Social and Family Affairs and Integration of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
- 2008 to 2009: State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany

Session 2



Uwe **Kekeritz**

Deputy Chairman of the German Bundestag's Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development (Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group)

- Spokesman on development policy for the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group
- 2009 to 2013: Chairman of the German Bundestag's Subcommittee on Health in Developing Countries
- Since 2009: Member of the German Bundestag



Didier **Reynders**

European Commissioner for Justice

- 2014 to 2019: Deputy Prime Minister, Belgium (Mouvement Réformateur/Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe)
- 2018 to 2019: Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, and Defence, Belgium
- 2014 to 2018 Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Belgium
- 2011 to 2014: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs, Belgium
- 1999 to 2011: Minister of Finance, Belgium



Lara **Wolters**

Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs (S&D Group)

- Member of the Committee on Budgetary Control
- Since 2019: Member of the European Parliament
- 2018 to 2019: Political advisor for the S&D Group at the European Parliament
- 2016 to 2018: Political advisor for the delegation of the Labour Party (Netherlands) in the European Parliament



Dr Annette Niederfranke

Director, International Labour Organization (ILO),
Representation for Germany

- 2011 to 2014: State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany
- 2010 bis 2011: Head of the Directorate-General for Political Coordination at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany
- 2008 to 2010: Head of the Directorate-General for Children and Youth at the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

For a social and fair Europe

Video conference on 9 November 2020

Memo: The European Pillar of Social Rights – current developments

I. Aims and principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights

In his State of the Union address in September 2015, Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission at that time, announced the plan to develop a European Pillar of Social Rights (“the Pillar”) with a view to stepping up the work for a fair and truly pan-European labour market. At the **Gothenburg Social Summit on 17 November 2017**, the Pillar was adopted by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in the form of an interinstitutional proclamation. Dedicated to the overarching aim of **upward social convergence**, it is intended to achieve better living and working conditions, to which end it sets out **20 principles** relating to three areas (see Annex).

The purpose of these principles being to contribute to **completion of the Economic and Monetary Union**, they apply chiefly to the euro currency area. Participation, however, is open to all Member States. The Pillar principles relate both to areas within the **shared competence** of the EU and member states and to areas within the **exclusive competence** of member states. The implementation of these principles is a dynamic process and is reviewed primarily in the European Semester framework by means of a social scoreboard.

II. Overview of the current state of implementation of the Pillar and its funding

Although the Pillar is intended first and foremost to serve the member states as a guidance framework and compass for their measures, the Commission has already launched numerous initiatives within its sphere of competence that are designed to put the 20 principles into effect. The Pillar proposal was also accompanied by concrete Commission initiatives. For example, the [Directive on work-life balance for parents and carers](#) (principles 2 and 9), which was adopted in June 2019, provides for the creation of better conditions for employees and parents to fulfil caring responsibilities. The [Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union](#) (principles 5 and 7), which also entered into force in June 2019, created a legal framework for new flexible forms of work, such as zero-hour contracts and work based on voucher systems or commissioned through online platforms (platform work), introducing, for example, restrictions on probationary periods, a ban on exclusivity clauses and a requirement to provide prior notification of working hours.

In April 2019, after lengthy negotiations, the [Directive on the accessibility requirements for products and services](#) (principles 3 and 17) had also been adopted. It establishes an obligation

for businesses to design goods and services, such as smartphones, cash dispensers, ticket machines and online purchasing facilities, in compliance with accessibility requirements.

The [revised Posting of Workers Directive](#) (chiefly principles 5 and 6) was adopted on 28 June 2018. Its provisions are intended to promote the principle of equal pay for equal work in the same place within the EU.

The principles of the Pillar are also being applied **by means of targeted financial support**. For example, in May 2018 the Commission presented a proposal for a [Regulation on the European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\)](#). It will be the most comprehensive funding instrument for the implementation of the Pillar, since it combines the existing European Social Fund, the policy instrument for the promotion of employment and social inclusion, with other instruments such as the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD). The member states reached agreement in early October 2020 on a partial **trilogue mandate on ESF+**, which means that negotiations can now be opened with the European Parliament.

The [European Globalisation Adjustment Fund](#) (EGF) helps people who have lost their jobs as a result of changes to the global trade structure, such as the closure of a large enterprise or relocation of production facilities to a country outside the EU. The [Erasmus programme \(Erasmus+\)](#), which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017, the year of the Pillar proclamation, is the world's largest exchange programme enabling university students to spend time abroad.

On 2 April 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission also proposed the [European instrument for temporary Support to mitigate Unemployment Risks in an Emergency \(SURE\)](#), through which a total of EUR 100 billion has been made available to safeguard jobs and employees from the consequences of COVID-19. In particular, the instrument supports short-time working schemes and similar measures designed to save jobs. A total of EUR 87.9 billion has already been approved to 17 member states in the SURE framework.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, in her mission letter of 10 September 2019 to **Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights**, described the Pillar as “our best instrument” to strengthen Europe’s social dimension. The Commission’s annual Employment and Social Developments in Europe (ESDE) review of 15 September 2020 attached **great importance** to minimum wages, short-time work schemes, social investments, social dialogue, collective bargaining and greater social fairness, particularly **against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic**. The review forecasts a sharp drop in employment from 2019 to 2020 and an increase in the unemployment rate to 9% in the EU and 9.6% in the euro area. On 14 January 2020, in its [Communication on a Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions](#), the Commission presented various specific initiatives for 2020/21 that were designed to bring the Pillar to life.

III. Priorities of Germany’s Presidency of the Council and its parliamentary dimension

In its programme for Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Federal Government refers explicitly to the Pillar under the heading *A fair Europe*. Its aim, in the words of the programme, is “to reduce inequality within the EU, mitigate disturbances in labour markets [...] and improve social protection”. At the Tripartite Social Summit of 14 October 2020, the importance of the Pillar in **efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic** was highlighted.

In the framework of the **parliamentary dimension** of the German Presidency, the German Bundestag and Bundesrat are both dedicated to the implementation of the Pillar, particularly in times of economic shock. In their joint declaration on the running of the parliamentary dimension of the Trio Presidency, the parliaments of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia emphasised that long-term public support for the EU would largely depend on greater progress towards a Social Europe.

1. Completed initiatives and measures

On 9 October 2020, the Council adopted [conclusions on strengthening minimum income protection](#) (principle 14). In those conclusions, member states are invited to strive to ensure that their national minimum income protection schemes meet the relevant recommendations of the Union and the International Labour Organization (ILO) and enable beneficiaries’ social and labour-market inclusion. On the basis of the Commission’s guidelines of 16 July 2020, conclusions were also adopted by the Council on 9 October 2020 on **improving the working and living conditions of seasonal and other mobile workers** (principles 5, 7 and 10), such as their health and safety at work, against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic. On the same date, the member states also adopted conclusions on the **participation and well-being of older persons** in the era of digitalisation (principles 3, 14, 16 and others).

On 1 July 2020, the Commission presented the [European Skills Agenda](#) (principle 1), which sets the objectives for improving existing skills and training in new skills (“upskilling and reskilling”) to be achieved by 2025. European cooperation in **vocational education and training** has been enhanced, particularly in the framework of the Copenhagen Process. The **Osnabrück Declaration** of 16 September 2020 sets the aim of developing excellent vocational education and training at university level. On 30 September 2020, the Commission also presented its [Communication on a European Education Area](#) together with a [Digital Education Action Plan](#). The Commission proposal of 1 July 2020, replacing the Council Recommendation of 22 April 2013 on establishing a Youth Guarantee, was adopted on 13 October 2020 by the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council. The Council Recommendation entitled **Youth Employment Support: a bridge to jobs for the next generation** (principle 4) is intended to reinforce the **Youth Guarantee** and to make vocational education and training systems more modern and flexible. It also envisages an increase in the age limit for participation in the scheme from 24 to 29.

2. Still to come: more priorities of Germany's Presidency of the Council

One of the main priorities of the German Presidency has been the development of an **EU framework for national minimum wages**. Following several rounds of consultation, the Commission presented a proposal for a [Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union](#). The purpose of this initiative is to protect workers throughout the EU by means of minimum wages that allow for a decent living wherever they work. At the same time, the competence of the member states will be respected, and the new rules will not affect the independence of the social partners in the realm of wage bargaining. The proposal neither provides for an obligation on member states to introduce statutory minimum wages nor does it prescribe uniform minimum wage levels. On the contrary, the EU initiative is intended to ensure that smoothly functioning collective bargaining systems are established for wage-setting and that national frameworks are created within which statutory minimum wages can be set on the basis of clear and stable criteria. Other aims of this initiative are to involve the social partners effectively in the process of setting minimum wages and to eliminate or minimise exceptions through enhanced oversight and enforcement of existing national minimum-wage legislation.

A [revision of the EU provisions on the coordination of social security systems](#) was proposed by the Commission back on 13 December 2016. The purpose of these rules is to coordinate, though not in any way to standardise, the social security rights of citizens of member states. The revision of the complex set of rules could not be completed and is to be continued as a matter of priority under the German Presidency.

The [EU Gender Equality Strategy](#) (principle 2) presented by the Commission on 5 March 2020, which sets political targets for equality between women and men for the period from 2020 to 2025, has also come under the spotlight, with an **informal meeting of EU gender equality ministers** scheduled to take place in Potsdam on 19 and 20 November. The meeting is to include deliberations on conclusions relating to **partnership-based division of paid work and of care tasks between women and men** for final adoption at the meeting of the EPSCO Council in December 2020. At the same meeting of the EPSCO Council, it is also hoped to reach agreement on a general approach to the proposal for a Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures, otherwise known as the **Women on Boards Directive**. A Commission proposal for the introduction of a **binding measure on wage transparency** is to be presented in mid-December 2020. A political debate on the subject of **platform work** is on the agenda for the EPSCO Council meeting in December 2020.

IV. Outlook for 2021

In its Communication of 14 January 2020 on a Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions, the Commission announced its intention to present an **action plan for the implementation of the Pillar in early 2021**. Public consultation on the implementation is currently taking place and will continue until 30 November 2020. The Presidency Trio of Germany, Portugal and Slovenia intend to

keep pressing for the implementation of the Pillar, for example at an **EU social summit in May 2021**.

The Commission is also planning to launch an **EU strategy on the rights of the child** (principle 11) at the start of 2021 with a view to mainstreaming children’s rights in all decisions and processes affecting children in every policy area. For the formulation of this strategy, a public consultation process is running until 8 December 2020. In addition, it is expected that the EU Child Guarantee against child poverty and social exclusion will be adopted in mid-2021.

On the basis of the findings of a consultation launched on 22 July 2020, the Commission intends to present an **Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion** (principle 3). This action plan is linked to the [EU Anti-racism Action Plan 2020-2025](#) published by the Commission on 18 September 2020, which also contains measures to combat discrimination in recruitment processes and in the workplace.

V. Priorities of the video conference

In view of the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European labour market and on the situation of employees throughout the EU, the focus of the video conference entitled *For a social and fair Europe* will be on the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights relating to fair working conditions. Accordingly, the main topics will include both current *ad hoc* measures, such as the application of the EU crisis instrument SURE, and long-term steps to establish fair working conditions in the EU, such as the current proposal for an EU minimum-wage framework, stipulations relating to platform work and the situation of seasonal workers.

Annex

The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights	
A. Equal opportunities and access to the labour market	1. Education, training and lifelong learning
	2. Gender equality
	3. Equal opportunities
	4. Active support to employment
B. Fair working conditions	5. Secure and adaptable employment
	6. Wages
	7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals
	8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
	9. Work-life balance
	10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection
	11. Childcare and support to children
C. Social protection and inclusion	12. Social protection
	13. Unemployment benefits
	14. Minimum income
	15. Old-age income and pensions
	16. Health care
	17. Inclusion of people with disabilities
	18. Long-term care
	19. Housing and assistance for the homeless
	20. Access to essential services

For a social and fair Europe

Video conference on 9 November 2020

Memo: Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability of European companies throughout global supply chains – current developments

I. Implementation in the EU and the member states to date

Only about one in three companies in the EU assesses its global production channels with regard to the observance of human rights, environmental protection and other standards. Around 16 per cent of all companies are monitoring the entire value chain. This was the conclusion reached by a [study](#) published in February 2020, which was commissioned by the European Commission. The figures relate to the companies responding to the study, which are of different sizes and operate in different sectors.

Compliance with these due diligence requirements by companies in the EU has been under discussion for some time both in the member states and at EU level. The focus here is, in particular, on how European companies can ensure that they improve their response to the impact they cause and that they comply with specific minimum standards in third countries of production.

With [Regulation \(EU\) 2017/821](#), which entered into force in 2017, the EU has launched an initial concrete legislative initiative for supply chain due diligence obligations for Union importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating from conflict-affected and high-risk areas. The European Parliament has also taken up this matter in the past, addressing issues such as the [corporate responsibility for serious human rights abuses in third countries](#), the [EU flagship initiative on the garment sector](#) and requirements for [sustainable finance](#).

Sixteen EU member states have implemented the [United Nations Guiding Principles](#) on Business and Human Rights with a National Action Plan. In addition, a number of member states have established binding regulations on due diligence requirements at national level.

A number of member state regulations and activities can be cited. For example, in 2015 Italy amended its corporate liability law and, in addition to corruption and environmental offences, added a catalogue of human rights violations that companies should take into account in their business dealings with third countries.

In France, the law on due diligence for parent companies and contracting companies entered into force in 2017. This law obliges large companies to prevent human rights violations and environmental damage caused by them or their suppliers or subcontractors and stipulates sanctions in the event of violations.

In May 2019, the Netherlands passed a law to ensure that goods and services are not produced or provided using child labour. The law obliges companies to comply with due diligence requirements with regard to child labour and lays down complaints and sanctions procedures.

A supply chain law is also currently under discussion in Germany. The Federal Government is currently holding discussions on the substance of the law with regard to key points for binding regulations on corporate due diligence. The lead ministries for this process will then draft a supply chain law on the basis of these key points.

II. Initiative planned by the European Commission

In the spring of 2020, EU Commissioner for Justice Didier Reynders announced an initiative on due diligence requirements for companies in the EU across their supply chains. This initiative is intended to be part of the planned EU legal framework for company law and corporate governance and is expected to be put forward in the second quarter of 2021.

The Commissioner for Justice emphasised in this context that the results of the aforementioned study showed that voluntary measures had not led to a corresponding change in behaviour on the part of companies. Rather, he claimed, the respondents were of the view that a regulation such as this had the potential to achieve legal certainty and a uniform, harmonised standard at EU level, as opposed to different approaches taken by the individual member states. Reynders said that the study also showed that the relevant stakeholders preferred mandatory and cross-sector regulatory measures. Moreover, the EU Commissioner concluded that EU legislation could help to create a level playing field and have a leverage effect with respect to supply chains in third countries.

The EU Commissioner for Justice has drawn attention to a number of core elements of the initiative. The following aspects are planned in accordance with the initiative:

- harmonisation at EU level,
- a cross-sector legal act,
- a mandatory mechanism,
- taking human rights and environmental and climate protection into account,
- sanctions for implementing this legislation as well as
- review options.

The European Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) is currently preparing an own [initiative report](#) on the proposal announced by the European Commission with recommendations on corporate due diligence and corporate accountability.

In a first draft, the responsible rapporteur Lara Wolters (S&D parliamentary group, the Netherlands) advocates a mandatory and wide-ranging EU framework on due diligence that encompasses all companies and value chains. European companies should, she writes, be held liable for the damage that they have caused and legal remedies for the victims should be made available. According to the draft own-initiative report, companies should have an obligation to make all

necessary and reasonable efforts with a view to identifying all of their suppliers and subcontractors. Furthermore, complaints procedures are proposed that are intended to allow stakeholders to express concerns regarding possible human rights or environmental risks.

III. Outlook

The European Commission is in favour of a swift approach as far as further steps are concerned. The Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers is currently holding a [public consultation](#) on the planned EU legal framework on company law and corporate governance. A concrete legislative proposal is expected to be put forward in the second quarter of 2021. One focus of this consultation is to be on due diligence requirements for global supply chains.

Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union is advocating a new EU action plan on human rights and decent work in global supply chains. This action plan is intended to achieve greater transparency, human rights protection, environmental protection and stability in supply contracts by strengthening corporate responsibility. Portugal, which will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2021, has announced that it intends to drive forward the European Pillar of Social Rights and, in this context, to promote the initiative announced by the European Commission.

The German Bundestag and Bundesrat are also committed to sustainability and fair working conditions throughout global supply chains as part of the Parliamentary Dimension of Germany's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Video conference: For a social and fair Europe

Berlin, 9th November 2020

List of Participants

Visioconférence: Pour une Europe sociale et équitable

Berlin, 9 novembre 2020

Liste des participants

Videokonferenz: Für ein soziales und faires Europa

Berlin, 9. November 2020

Liste der Teilnehmenden

MEMBER STATES – ÉTATS MEMBRES – MITGLIEDSTAATEN

AUSTRIA, AUTRICHE, ÖSTERREICH

National Council, Conseil national, Nationalrat



Mr Josef Muchitsch

Delegation Member,
Chairman of the
Committee on
Labour and Social
Affairs
Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



Ms Petra Bayr

Delegation Member,
Chairwoman of the
Sub-Committee on
Development
Cooperation
(Foreign Affairs
Committee)
Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



Mr David Liebich

Delegation Staff,
Deputy Head of
Department
European Union
Affairs

Federal Council/Conseil fédéral/Bundesrat



Ms Korinna Schumann

Head of Delegation,
Chairwoman of the
Committee on
Labour, Social
Affairs and
Consumer Protection
Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D

BELGIUM, BELGIQUE, BELGIË, BELGIEN

House of Representatives, Chambre des représentants, Kamer van volksvertegenwoordigers, Repräsentantenhaus



Ms Anneleen van Bossuyt

Head of Delegation,
Deputy
Chairwoman of the
Committee on
Economic,
Consumer
Protection and
Digital Agenda
European
Conservatives and
Reformists, ECR

Senate, Sénat, Senaat, Senat



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Delegation Staff,
Advisor for
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Ms Iuna Sadat

Delegation Staff,
Adviser, Secretary
to the Federal
Advisory
Committee on
European Affairs

BULGARIA, BULGARIE, БЪЛГАРИЯ, BULGARIEN

National Assembly, Assemblée nationale, Narodno Sabranie, Nationalversammlung



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Head of Delegation,
Chairman of the
Committee on
Labour, Social and
Demographic Policy
Renew Europe, RE



Mr Vladimir Beron

Delegation Staff,
Permanent
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CROATIA, CROATIE, HRVATSKA, KROATIEN

Parliament, Parlement, Hrvatski sabor, Parlament



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Chairman of the
Committee on
Labour, Retirement
System and Social
Partnership
Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



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Delegation Member,
Chairman of the
Committee on
Economic
European People's
Party, EPP

CYPRUS, CHYPRE, ΚΥΠΡΟΣ, ZYPERN

House of Representatives, Chambre des représentants, Vouli ton Antiprosopon, Repräsentantenhaus



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CZECH REPUBLIC, REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE, ČESKA REPUBLIKA, TSCHECHISCHE REPUBLIK

Chamber of Deputies, Chambre des députés, Poslanecká sněmovna, Abgeordnetenammer



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DENMARK, DANEMARK, DANMARK, DÄNEMARK

Parliament, Parlement, Folketinget, Parlament



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Economy, Growth
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European United
Left/Nordic Green
Left, GUE

ESTONIA, ESTONIE, EESTI, ESTLAND

Parliament, Parlement, Riigikogu, Parlament



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Renew Europe, RE



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Renew Europe, RE



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GERMANY, ALLEMAGNE, DEUTSCHLAND

German Bundestag, Bundestag allemand, Deutscher Bundestag



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Labour and Social
Affairs

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Economic
Cooperation and
Development

The Greens /
European Free
Alliance,
Greens/EFA

Federal Council, Parlement national, Bundesrat



Ms Carolina Trautner

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Committee on
Labour, Integration
and Social Policy

European People's
Party, EPP

GREECE, GRÈCE, ΕΛΛΑΣ, GRIECHENLAND

Hellenic Parliament, Parlement hellénique, Βουλή των Ελλήνων, Vouli ton Ellinon,
Griechisches Parlament



Ms Maria-Alexandra Kefala

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Social Affairs

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Party, EPP



Mr

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Markopoulos

Delegation Staff,
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Department



Mr

Ioannis

Nychas

Delegation Staff,
Official - EU
Department



Ms

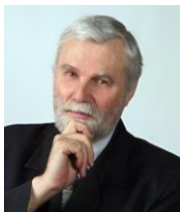
Eleni

Sianna

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National
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Parliament

HUNGARY, HONGRIE, MAGYARORSZAG, UNGARN

National Assembly, Assemblée Nationale, Országgyűlés, Nationalversammlung



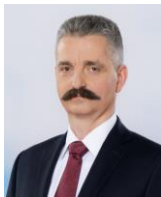
Mr

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Delegation Member,
Deputy Chairman of
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The Greens /
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Alliance,
Greens/EFA



Mr

Zoltán

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European People's
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Advisor

IRELAND, IRLANDE, ÉIREANN, IRLAND

Parliament, Parlement, Houses of Oireachtas, Parliament



Mr Denis Naughten

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Chairman of the
Committee on on
Social Protection,
Community and
Rural Development
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Non-attached
members, NA

ITALY, ITALIE, ITALIA, ITALIEN

Senate, Sénat, Senato, Senat



Ms Susy Matrisciano

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Chairwoman of the
Committee on
Public and Private
Work, Social
Security

Non-attached
members, NA



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LITHUANIA, LITUANIE, LIETTUVA, LITAUEN

Parliament, Parlement, Seimas, Parliament



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Social Affairs and
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The Greens /
European Free
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LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBOURG, LUXEMBURG

Chamber of Deputies, Chambre des députés, Chambre des députés, Abgeordnetenammer



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MALTA, MALTE, MALTA

House of Representatives, Chambre des représentants, Kamra tad-Deputati, Repräsentantenhaus



Mr	Jean Claude	Micallef	Head of Delegation, Chairman of the Committee on Economy and Finance	Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, S&D
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Mr	Claudio	Grech	Delegation Member, Member of the Committee on Economy and Finance	European People's Party, EPP
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Ms	Rosianne	Cutajar	Delegation Member, Member of the Joint Committee on Family and Social Affairs	Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, S&D
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THE NETHERLANDS, PAYS-BAS, NEDERLAND, DIE NIEDERLANDE

House of Representatives, Chambre des représentants, Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, Repräsentantenhaus



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Finance

Renew Europe, RE



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European People's
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Employment

Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



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POLAND, POLOGNE, POLSKA, POLEN

Parliament, Parlement, Sejm, Parlament



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Conservatives and
Reformists, ECR



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Senate, Sénat, Senat



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Deputy Chairman of
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Family, Senior and
Social Policy
European
Conservatives and
Reformists, ECR



Mr

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European
Conservatives and
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PORTUGAL, PORTUGAL, PORTUGAL, PORTUGAL

Assembly of the Republic, Assemblée de la République, Assembleia da República, Nationalversammlung



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Mr João Paulo Pedrosa

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Left/Nordic Green
Left, GUE



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Official of National
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ROMANIA, ROUMANIE, ROMANIA, RUMĂNIEN

Senate, Sénat, Senat, Senat



Mr

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Cătălin

Zamfir

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Services

Progressive Alliance
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Mr

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Dorel

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Committee on
Labour, Family and
Social Protection

Progressive Alliance
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SLOVENIA, SLOVENIE, SLOVENIJA, SLOWENIEN

National Assembly, Assemblée nationale, Državni zbor, Nationalversammlung



Mr

Peter

Pozun

Head of Delegation,
Chairman of the
Committee on
Social Care,
Labour, Health and
Disabled



Mr

Igor

Antauer

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Head of the Interest
Group of Employers



Ms

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Progressive Alliance
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Democrats, S&D



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Inclusion, Social
Security and
Migrations

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Ms

Sylvia

Martí

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Clerck of the
Committee on
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Inclusion, Social
Security and
Migrations

SWEDEN, SUÈDE, SVERIGE, SCHWEDEN

Parliament, Parlement, Riksdagen, Parlament



Ms

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Delgado Varas

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Member of the
Committee on
Industry and Trade

European United
Left/Nordic Green
Left, GUE



Ms

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Palmstierna

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Member of the
Committee on
European Affairs

The Greens /
European Free
Alliance,
Greens/EFA

SPECIAL GUESTS – INVITÉS SPECIAUX – EHRENGÄSTE

NORWAY, NORVÈGE, NORGE, NORWEGEN

Parliament, Parlement, Stortinget, Parlament



Mr Per S. Nestande

Delegation Staff,
Brussels based
National Parliament
Representative

SPEAKERS – ORATEURS – REDNER/INNEN



Ms Petra Pau

Vice-President of
the German
Bundestag
European United
Left/Nordic Green
Left, GUE



Mr Nicolas Schmit

European
Commissioner for
Jobs and Social
Rights



Ms Klára Dobrev

Vice-President of the
European Parliament,
Rapporteur on the
Employment and
Social Policy of the
Euro Currency area
2020
Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



Mr Detlef Scheele

Chairman of the
Executive Board of
the Federal
Employment
Agency



Mr

Didier

Reynders

European
Commissioner for
Justice



Ms

Lara

Wolters

Member of the
European
Parliament's
Committee on
Legal Affairs

Progressive Alliance
of Socialists and
Democrats, S&D



Ms

Annette

Niederfranke

Director of the
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of the International
Labour
Organisation