



European Commission



EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

#SocialRights



"We have to step up the work for a fair and truly pan-European labour market. (...) As part of these efforts, I will want to develop a European Pillar of Social Rights, which takes account of the changing realities of Europe's societies and the world of work. And which can serve as a compass for the renewed convergence within the euro area. The European Pillar of Social Rights should complement what we have already jointly achieved when it comes to the protection of workers in the EU. I will expect social partners to play a central role in this process. I believe we do well to start with this initiative within the euro area, while allowing other EU Member States to join in if they want to do so."

President Juncker, State of the Union, 9 September 2015

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS?

Building a fairer Europe and strengthening its social dimension is a key priority for this Commission. The Pillar will serve as a compass for a renewed process of **convergence towards better working and living conditions** across Europe. It is primarily conceived for the euro area but applicable to all EU Member States wishing to be part of it. The content of the Pillar will be discussed with the European Parliament and all Member States in the Council, in view of a joint proclamation by the EU institutions.

The Pillar builds on previous initiatives of this Commission and a broad public consultation. It is about **delivering new and more effective rights for citizens**. It enshrines **principles and rights** in the field of:



Equal opportunities and access to the labour market



Fair working conditions



Social protection and inclusion



DELIVERING ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

Delivering on the principles and rights defined under the European Pillar of Social Rights is a **joint responsibility** of the European Union, Member States, social partners and other stakeholders. The European Union will help setting the framework and give direction on the way forward for the implementation of the Pillar, in full respect of Member States' competences. It takes into account the diversity of situations across Member States and addresses today's and tomorrow's realities. Follow-up will include:

Endorsing the European Pillar of Social Rights

- The Commission proposes **the European Pillar of Social Rights to be proclaimed jointly** by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The Commission would like to see it endorsed at the highest political level before the end of this year.

Updating and complementing EU law where necessary

- The Pillar is accompanied by a number of **legislative and non-legislative proposals**, among which a proposal to help working parents and carers manage their family life and their professional career, by setting new or higher minimum standards for parental, paternity and carer's leave. Other initiatives may follow in line with upcoming annual Commission Work Programmes.

Better enforcing EU law

- In addition to new legislative initiatives, the European Pillar of Social Rights focuses on the **actual implementation of legislation and enforcement**. For instance, today's package includes a clarification of the Working Time Directive, to enhance legal clarity and help Member States apply the rules so that protection of workers regarding working time can be ensured.

Supporting social dialogue in the EU

- This Commission has supported the re-launch of social dialogue since the beginning of its mandate, **promoting social dialogue as a key instrument for better governance and more effective social and economic reforms**. The social partners have played a key role in the preparation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, a key role which is also stressed in the Pillar itself.

Monitoring progress within the European Semester of economic policy coordination

- Social considerations have been mainstreamed and reinforced in the European Semester since the beginning of this Commission. **The Semester analysis and recommendations will further reflect and promote principles set out in the Pillar**. Benchmarking will be progressively conducted for policy domains which are particularly relevant for the functioning of the euro area.
- The implementation of the Pillar will also be supported by an **online social scoreboard to track trends and performances across EU countries**. This will not only feed into the European Semester of economic policy coordination, but also serve to assess progress towards a "social triple A" for the EU as a whole.

EU financial support

- The European funds, in particular the **European Social Fund**, will support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

Social dimension of the EU

- The Pillar will inspire the work done in the context of the European Semester and on the **completion of the Economic and Monetary Union**, in line with the Five Presidents' Report.
- The Pillar is presented alongside a **reflection paper on the social dimension of Europe by 2025**. The Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth, to be held in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017, will be a further key moment to take the discussion forward.