



European
Commission

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS



A portrait of President Juncker, wearing glasses and a suit, looking slightly to the right. The image is overlaid with a blue tint.

**PRESIDENT JUNCKER,
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS,
9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

*"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...**"*



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**PRESIDENT JUNCKER,
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS,
9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

*“...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.”*



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PART OF THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA FOR A FAIRER AND DEEPER ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

- **Political Guidelines of the Commission, July 2014**
- **Five Presidents' Report on Completing Europe's EMU, June 2015**
- **Communication on Steps for Completing EMU, October 2015**
- **Preparation of a White Paper for "stage 2", Spring 2017**

DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSULTATION

- A Communication on "why", "what" and "how"
- A preliminary outline of the Pillar
- A background document on key economic, employment and social challenges
- A background document on the EU legal "acquis"
- Background fiches on each domain covered by the draft Pillar

<http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights>

BACKGROUND TO THE PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

- the **far-reaching consequences of the crisis**
- a **changing world of work**
- accentuating **demographic trends**
- very **different performances** within the euro area



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE "ACQUIS" AND THE PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS?

From **step by step**
in establishing
the "acquis" to...

- a **holistic review**
of **present and**
future needs for
the **whole EU**
- a **greater focus**
on the **challenges**
of the **euro area**

WHY FOCUS ON THE EURO AREA

- Divergence in situations and importance of spill-overs
- Key role of employment and social performances to build more resilient economic structures
- Support to the renewed convergence process

PILLAR CHAPTER 1: EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO THE LABOUR MARKET

- Skills, education and life-long learning
- Flexible and secure labour contracts
- Secure professional transitions
- Active support for employment
- Gender equality and work-life balance
- Equal opportunities

PILLAR CHAPTER 2: FAIR WORKING CONDITIONS

- Conditions of employment
- Wages
- Health and safety at work
- Social dialogue and involvement of workers
http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/sites/beta-political/files/social-dialogue-involvement-of-workers_en.pdf

PILLAR CHAPTER 3: ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION

- ↪ Integrated social benefits and services
- ↪ Health care and sickness benefits
- ↪ Pensions
- ↪ Unemployment benefits
- ↪ Minimum income
- ↪ Disability benefits
- ↪ Long-term care
- ↪ Childcare
- ↪ Housing
- ↪ Access to essential services

MAIN AIMS OF THE CONSULTATION

- Assessment of the EU social "acquis"
- Reflect on new trends in work patterns and societies
- Gather feedback on the preliminary outline of the Pillar



A BROAD CONSULTATION UNTIL END 2016

A process of:

- Agenda-setting
- Knowledge-building
- Policy development

A public consultation on the Pillar:

- On-line questionnaire
- Work with EU social partners
- European conference by end 2016

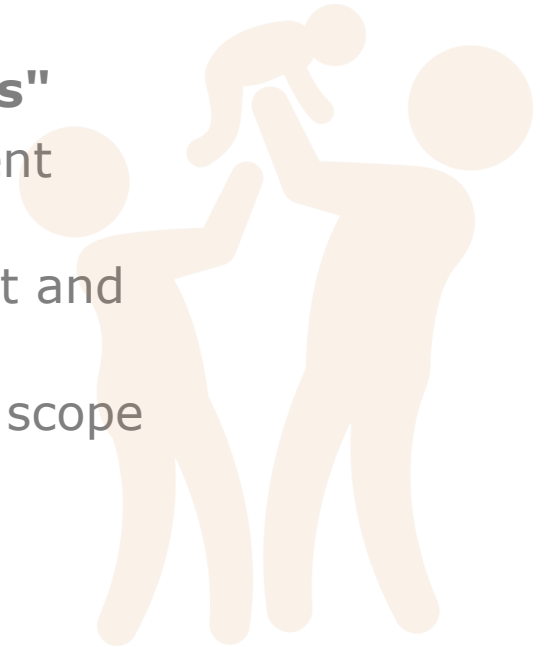
Dedicated "work streams":

- The EU social "acquis"
- The future of work and welfare systems
- The role of the Pillar as part of EMU deepening

10 KEY QUESTIONS (1/3)

On the social situation and EU social "acquis"

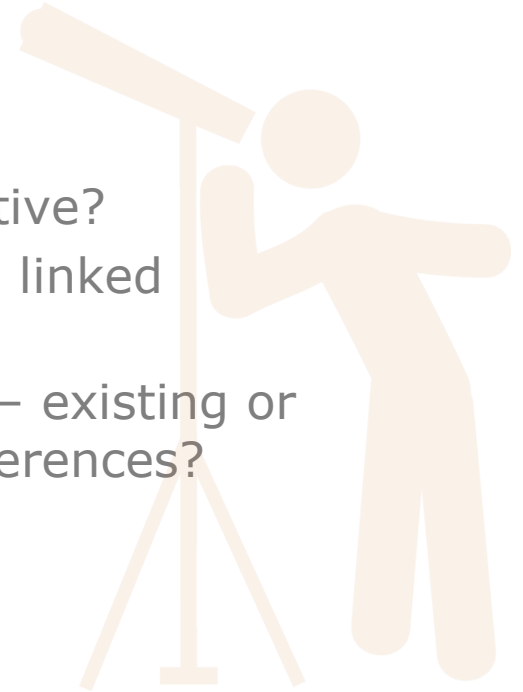
- What do you see as most pressing employment and social priorities?
- How can we account for different employment and social situations across Europe?
- Is the EU "acquis" up to date and do you see scope for further EU action?



10 KEY QUESTIONS (2/3)

On the future of work and welfare systems

- What trends would you see as most transformative?
- What would be the main risks and opportunities linked to such trends?
- Are there policies, institutions or firm practices – existing or emerging – which you would recommend as references?

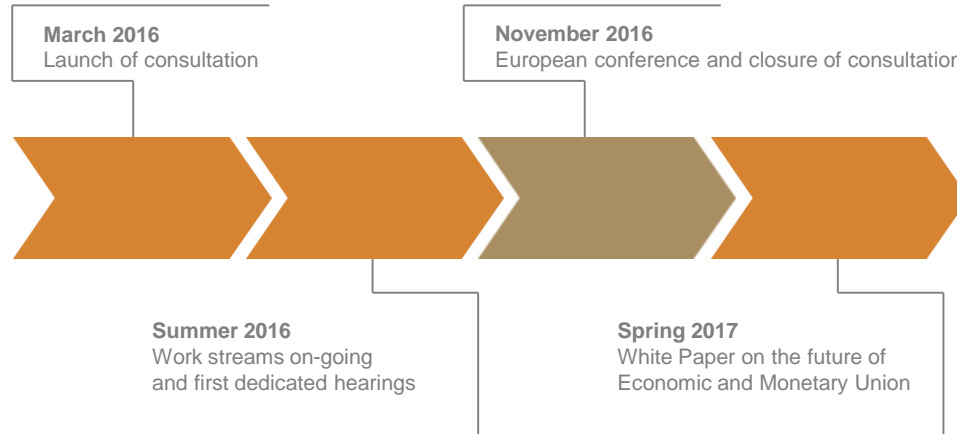


10 KEY QUESTIONS (3/3)

On the European Pillar of Social Rights

- Do you agree with the approach outlined here for the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights?
- Do you agree with the scope of the Pillar, domains and principles proposed here? Are there aspects that are not adequately expressed or covered so far?
- What domains and principles would be most important as part of a renewed convergence for the euro area?
- How should these be expressed and made operational? In particular, do you see the scope and added value of minimum standards or reference benchmarks in certain areas and if so, which ones?

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS



THE ROLE OF EU SOCIAL PARTNERS [TBC]

- Tripartite Social Summits in March and October 2016
- Dedicated hearings to discuss the Pillar
- Contribution to the work streams

