

Consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Welcome to the European Commission's online public consultation on the "European Pillar of Social Rights".

Are our social rights fit for the 21st century? The Pillar will identify a number of essential principles to address the challenges in the field of employment and social policies.

We want to involve everyone in shaping the European Pillar of Social Rights. We welcome contributions from citizens, social partners, organisations and public authorities, so have your say!

Please submit your contribution below until the end of 2016.

I. Questions for the identification of the respondent

*** Are you replying as an individual or as an organisation?**

- Individual
- Organisation

What is the type of your organisation?

- Business
- EU level organisation
- National level organisation

Your national level organisation is a(n)

- NGO
- Trade Union
- Employers organisation
- Think tank/academia
- National administration
- Regional/local administration
- Other

Please specify:

500 character(s) maximum

*** Name of your organisation or institution:**

500 character(s) maximum

Jusos Brüssel. The Jusos is the youth organisation of the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD).

*** Respondent's first name:**

Jusos Brüssel

*** Respondent's surname:**

Jusos Brüssel

*** Respondent's email address:**

jusos.bxl@gmail.com

*** Postal address of your organisation or institution:**

500 character(s) maximum

Rue du Congres 8
1000 Bruxelles

Country

For individuals: country of residence.

For organisations: country where the organisation is based or country where the organisation's headquarters are.

Germany

Register ID number (if you/your organisation is registered in the Transparency register):

If you would like to register, please refer to the following webpage to see how to proceed : <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/info/homePage.do>

* Your reply:

- Can be published with your personal information** (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Can be published in an anonymous way** (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Cannot be published - keep it confidential** (The contribution will not be published, but will be used internally within the Commission)

II. Questions for the consultation

The Commission invites all interested parties to reply to the questions set out in the questionnaire below, together with any additional comments, by 31 December 2016. (*See also [Commission communication "Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights", COM\(2016\) 127 final](#)*)

On the social situation and EU social "acquis"

1. What do you see as most pressing employment and social priorities?

2000 character(s) maximum

2. How can we account for different employment and social situations across Europe?

2000 character(s) maximum

3. Is the EU "acquis" up to date and do you see scope for further EU action?

2000 character(s) maximum

Whether the European Union will have a future will depend on its ability to guarantee social and economic well-being to all its citizens. At the moment this is not given. Thus many people seek solutions with political groups that want to re-establish national borders as an answer to solve the social questions. We are convinced that re-nationalisation cannot be the solution. Instead the EU social acquis should address workers' concerns by proposing better rules to address shortcomings in the legal framework along with strong recommendations and action to improve the living and working conditions of workers. The European Pillar of Social Rights must be the opportunity to finally step up the EU social acquis to end its shadowy existence compared with the EU as economic integration.

On the future of work and welfare systems

4. What trends would you see as most transformative? [Please select at most three from the list below]

between 1 and 3 choices

- Demographic trends (e.g. ageing, migration)
- Changes in family structures
- New skills requirements
- Technological change
- Increasing global competition
- Participation of women in the labour market
- New ways of work
- Inequalities
- Other

5. What would be the main risks and opportunities linked to such trends?

2000 character(s) maximum

6. Are there policies, institutions or firm practices – existing or emerging – which you would recommend as references?

2000 character(s) maximum

On the European Pillar of Social Rights

7. Do you agree with the approach outlined here for the establishment of a European Pillar of Social Rights?

- I strongly agree
- I agree
- I disagree
- I strongly disagree

Please specify:

2000 character(s) maximum

The name of the European Pillar of Social Rights should be program: the Commission's proposals in this field must be claimable and enforceable social rights and not solely principles.

This pillar must be a fundamental element of the EU's legal architecture, not only leaving economic rights at the heart of the European house.

Moreover, the geographical scope proposed so far is not satisfactory. Social rights cannot be restricted to citizens in the Eurozone only. The European Pillar of Social Rights should cover the European Union as a whole.

8. Do you agree with the scope of the Pillar, domains and principles proposed here? (If you wish to provide detailed comments on any of the 20 domains, please see the section "Detailed comments by domain" below)

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
1. Skills, education and life-long learning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Flexible and secure labour contracts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Secure professional transitions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Active support for employment	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Gender equality and work-life balance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Equal opportunities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Conditions of employment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Wages	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Health and safety at work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
11. Integrated social benefits and services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Health care and sickness benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Unemployment benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Minimum income	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Disability benefits	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
17. Long-term care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
18. Childcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. Access to essential services	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Are there aspects which are not adequately expressed or covered so far?

2000 character(s) maximum

9. What domains and principles would be most important as part of a renewed convergence for the euro area? (Please select maximum 5)

between 1 and 5 choices

- 1. Skills, education and life-long learning
- 2. Flexible and secure labour contracts
- 3. Secure professional transitions
- 4. Active support for employment
- 5. Gender equality and work-life balance
- 6. Equal opportunities
- 7. Conditions of employment
- 8. Wages
- 9. Health and safety at work
- 10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- 11. Integrated social benefits and services
- 12. Health care and sickness benefits
- 13. Pensions
- 14. Unemployment benefits
- 15. Minimum income
- 16. Disability benefits
- 17. Long-term care
- 18. Childcare
- 19. Housing
- 20. Access to essential services

Comments:

2000 character(s) maximum

10. 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?

2000 character(s) maximum

Detailed comments by domain

If you wish to provide detailed comments on any of the domains, please select one or more from the list below and fill the table(s) and comment box(es) underneath. *(A detailed description of the domains and principles is available in the [Annex "A European Pillar of Social Rights - Preliminary Outline"](#) to the [Commission communication "Launching a consultation on a European Pillar of Social Rights"](#), COM(2016) 127 final).*

- 1. Skills, education and life-long learning
- 2. Flexible and secure labour contracts
- 3. Secure professional transitions
- 4. Active support for employment
- 5. Gender equality and work-life balance
- 6. Equal opportunities
- 7. Conditions of employment
- 8. Wages
- 9. Health and safety at work
- 10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- 11. Integrated social benefits and services
- 12. Health care and sickness benefits
- 13. Pensions
- 14. Unemployment benefits
- 15. Minimum income
- 16. Disability benefits
- 17. Long-term care
- 18. Childcare
- 19. Housing
- 20. Access to essential services

1. Skills, education and life-long learning

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

1.The EC puts its focus on supporting schools in fostering students' skills that foster their employability, e.g. digital skills, entrepreneurship. While these skills are important, the main task of school education remains general education, that fosters broad interests, including arts, civic education, sports.

2.An important role of education is to succeed in integrating vulnerable groups such as disabled children & migrants. Teachers need to teach their students to be tolerant and include "others". This is a huge task for which schools and universities need support.

3.There should be a stronger effort to provide equal opportunities in education to children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

4.More support needs to be provided for the inclusion of disabled children in mainstream education. In many countries, disabled children are still taught in separate classes and teachers are lacking adequate support to teach diverse classrooms that include such children. There needs to be a clear commitment on the policy level.

5.School and further education also need to provide students with relevant digital skills, including those you need as a critical consumer of media. While coding is a useful skill, broad digital skills remain more relevant. The main reason why students need to acquire digital skills at school should not be demands of the employment market but the general need to have digital skills to participate as a citizen in our digital world.

6.The European Commission can promote and support with its Erasmus plus project a stronger focus on education on the European Union, against nationalism and racism, as the general knowledge function of EU remains low. The accessibility of the Erasmus+ program for secondary school and vocational students has to be improved.

7.Refugees arriving in Europe still pose a challenge to schools and teachers. There is a lack of networks, possibilities for teachers to exchange. The European Commission could support such networks.

2. Flexible and secure labour contracts

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

The EU should be careful in supporting more flexibility. Tlast years, the focus was mainly on flexibility and not on security. Entrepreneurial risks should not be shouldered by the workers through exploitive forms of "employment". Temporary labour contracts should not be favoured over permanent ones, as this supports the development of a segmented labour market rather than being a stepping stone for a career. Especially young people face the challenges to do internship after internship with low or no payment which rarely translates into a good permanent job. It is key that graduate internships have to be paid collectively agreed wages or no less than 80% of a branches median wage.

Adaptable and secure working contracts should be the goal. Adaptability instead of flexibility should be promoted in order to face new labour market challenges or demands. Flexibility is way too often shouldered by the worker through precarious employment status: freelancing, zero-hour-contracts, etc. Adaptability demands a cooperation between workers, employers and maybe the state or labour market services. With adaptability it is recognised that employment relations are constantly changing or have to change. Yet, this should not be a one way street. Means of internal flexibility should be used in that regard. Two approaches can be identified: numerical internal flexibility: changes of working hours or functional internal flexibility: changes of positions within the company - with a focus on education and skills for example. Education and skills are key to adapt to new challenges. Employers know best which skills they need or are going to need. Forms of cooperation could be paid educational leave, paid educational part time, or work foundations. With the involvement of employers or employer associations they can articulate the (upcoming) needs regarding skills and the state provides infrastructure and know-how.

4. Active support for employment

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

We strongly support the principle that all people under the age of 25 years shall receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship or a traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

The European Youth Guarantee has done great work in this respect since its establishment in 2014, which is also confirmed by the EC's own evaluation of October 2016. The Youth Guarantee is one of the most successful, and fastest implemented structural reforms in Europe with clear benefits for its citizens. It should be a) sustained with 20 bn EUR until 2020, b) become a permanent feature of the European Social Model, c) be broadened to young people up to 30 years old d) with high quality standards.

The European Youth Guarantee therefore should become a permanent feature of active labour market policies in Europe, with sufficient extra funding beyond its current financing period after 2016.

Also, extending the scope of beneficiaries up to the age of 30 would better reflect the reality of young people leaving education or getting unemployed later than at the age of 25.

More attention must be paid to the quality of offers in the framework of the Youth Guarantee. Higher standards must be promoted in terms of social protection, decent remuneration, stability, rights, health and safety, type of contract, the related level and type of qualification required and the availability of additional job-related training.

5. Gender equality and work-life balance

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

1. The EC working document is mainly concerned with higher employment rates for women, especially in full time positions. It is important to look not only at the quantity but also quality of work for women, e.g. long term contracts, development opportunities, leadership positions.
2. The topic "gender equality" should be addressed more widely, not only as regards employment conditions. Generally, gender mainstreaming should be fostered.
3. There should be a stronger emphasis also on men, in particular strengthen the point "lack of paid leave arrangements" mentions only in last paragraph to be strengthened. A free choice which of the parents stays home for how long with a child needs to be promoted. Longer remunerated leave periods for male parents should be possible.
4. It is not only a task for parents to combine work and family life, the state and employers have an important role in making it possible for parents to combine both. Employers should be encouraged to offer more flexible working hours, home office etc. so that parents can combine work and family life. The point made only in the last paragraph asking for more adequate work life balance arrangements e.g. leaves, lack of flexible working patterns, access to formal care services needs to be strengthened and further elaborated.
6. The point made that single parent families are vulnerable is important and needs to be strengthened more, single parent families need particular support.
7. The goal should not only be to interest more women in STEM careers, but also to interest more men in careers in school education, nursing etc. Adequate salaries need to be provided in nursing, elderly care etc.
8. One important obstacle for women to make a career is that combining family and full time employment is still a big challenge in many countries. Young families need more flexible employers and more child care opportunities.
9. Gender balance on corporate boards should be fostered with legally binding targets.

6. Equal opportunities

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

The EC staff working paper rightly points out that barriers to equal opportunities are already set at an early life stage. Equal opportunities are thus closely related to child well-being and tackling child poverty by i.e. improving children's access to childcare, healthcare, education, decent housing, and adequate nutrition.

The EC already supports member states' and regions' efforts to fight child poverty through numerous funds, i.e. the ESF, Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived, Structural funds, European School Fruit and Milk Schemes. However, this complex funding landscape is very unclear and probably leads to inefficiencies as numbers on what share of these funds is used for child well-being-related projects are not available and consequently traceability and evaluation of these spending is impeded.

A European Child Guarantee should therefore be introduced - a European fund exclusively to be used to support national and regional anti-child poverty policies, i.e. to grant children access to childcare, healthcare, education, decent housing and adequate nutrition. The European Child Guarantee could be funded by the grouping of parts of existing funds (i.e. of those mentioned above) and should be combined with better tracking and evaluation of programs funded by such a Child Guarantee.

The presentation of a clear and credible national, and/or regional action plan against child poverty, including measures as proposed by the Commission recommendation on Investing in Children, could be made a pre-condition for member states/regions to get access to Child Guarantee funding.

Furthermore, in future EU targets for the reduction of poverty and social exclusion in Europe, sub-targets for the reduction of child poverty should be introduced. Action against child poverty could thus be fostered and visibility of the challenge be increased.

7. Conditions of employment

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

The described challenges are only a few on faces when you do not have a full time job. Those new forms of flexible employment are most often lacking the proper protection against social risks. It is not enough if you are informed about your rights when you don't have the proper rights, no accident insurance, no unemployment insurance, no pension insurance. The European Commission should think further; we need:

- a definition of self-employed worker
- improving the definition of worker
- a definition of interns
- the right to protection against insecurity in employment
- the right to reasonable working time (abolish zero working contracts as well as guarantee overtime is limited in a reasonable way)
- the right to dignity at work (privacy, measures against mobbing or sexual harassment at the work place, data protection)
- the right to representation at work and in the board room (betriebliche Mitbestimmung)
- the right to collective bargaining
- the right to be protected during probation (including unpaid internships)
- the right to be protected against unfair dismissals.

Information is helpful only when you have proper rights which are enforceable in front of a court. The social rights in the EU have to be as powerfully implemented as the four freedoms. We therefore demand the implementation of a social progress clause to strengthen the social dimension of the EU not only by empty words but in front of courts. Such a clause must clarify that in case of doubt social rights have to be favoured over economic freedoms.

8. Wages

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

There is indeed an increasing employment rate in Europe but also increasingly more working poor. Not just any job provides a solution but rather good quality jobs are needed. The wage is one of the factor establishing a good quality job. We therefore demand that everybody should receive a living wage! Nobody that is working full-time should receive less than 60% of the country's median income.

The Posting of Workers Directive has to be revised in order to guarantee the principle of "same pay at the same place for the same work".

10. Social dialogue and involvement of workers

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

The current EC text is taking a too narrow angle on social partners' rights in the European Union. While social partners' rights to information and consultation is rightly mentioned, a reference to social partners' right to participation is missing.

Also missing is a reference to collective rights, to forming and joining trade unions, collective bargaining and collective action, including the right to strike.

A European Pillar of Social Rights should also protect and strengthen these aspects of social dialogue in the EU.

The European institutions should more systematically involve European and national social partners in the formulation and implementation of the European Semester process.

The EC should be more affirmative in sustaining the outcomes of European social dialogue to give them support of EU legal acts. Incidents like the 2012 blocking of the European framework agreement on the protection of occupational health and safety in the hairdressing sector must not be repeated. "Better regulation" considerations must not jeopardise the entry into force of social legislation negotiated by sectoral and/or cross-sectoral European social partners.

14. Unemployment benefits

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

We need investment in active labour market policies such as individual training and targeted counselling as they increase employment opportunities for job seekers. They contribute to employment and reduce dependency of the unemployed.

To assure an adequate level of unemployment benefits as well as that unemployed people actually receive benefits it should be part of the European Semester. Common targets for employment levels aren't enough. We need more binding targets that are put on a par with the economic and fiscal targets. A review has to take place of the current unemployment benefit rules if they are properly designed to protect people, which lost a precarious job, i.e. not a normal full time job. The unemployment insurance systems has to be equipped to protect self-employed workers or part-time workers with a proper benefit level in the case of unemployment. This should a replacement rate of 60% and a duration of at least 26 weeks. This is a problem particularly for young people because they are discriminated against receiving benefits. Young people need to have the same rights as all other people.

Long term unemployed people have lost labour market attachment and need special help, such as adequate re-skilling. Active labour market policies can play an important role here. It is an investment but still financially more sustainable than unemployment benefits. Public employment services need to be adequately staffed to be able to provide tailor-made services such as individual career guidance and counselling, particularly for young people. A skills guarantee to ensure the rights of the unemployed could play an important role in this matter.

15. Minimum income

	I strongly agree	I agree	I disagree	I strongly disagree
Do you agree with the challenges described?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is the principle addressing those challenges in the right way?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Should the EU act to put in reality this principle?	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have other comments or additional suggestions? For instance: how to address these challenges in the right way? How should the EU act to put in reality this principle?

2000 character(s) maximum

The principle is not clear enough about what is understood by 'adequate minimum income benefits'. It is true that minimum income benefits need to be ensured for everyone in the EU. Yet, the EU must also make sure that there is a common understanding across Member States of what an adequate minimum income is. Common standards of what is indispensable to live a life in dignity and to fully participate in society need to be developed to avoid that these standards are lower in some Member States.

Minimum income schemes should not be discriminatory. Especially young people should have the same right to a minimum income as others. All people should receive equal treatment, including migrants with legal residence status or ethnic minorities, such as Roma.

Moreover, the scope of the principle is too low by focussing only on labour market (re)integration. A minimum income scheme must allow a life in dignity which implies being able to participate in social life and being accepted by society. This also implies that the image of beneficiaries of minimum income as being lazy people who profit from society, which is still circulating in many Member States, needs to be countered.

The many barriers to accessing benefits are not addressed. In some Member States, many people entitled to minimum income benefits do not have access to them because of lack of information or too high administrative procedures. The EU should act to remove these obstacles which disempower or even prevent people from receiving minimum income benefits.

Contact

EMPL-EUROPEAN-PILLAR-OF-SOCIAL-RIGHTS@ec.europa.eu
