

Briefing Note

On the European Pillar of Social Rights

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This Briefing Note introduces the European Pillar of Social Rights, which sets out 20 key principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems.

The establishment of the European Pillar of Social Rights is part of the broader debate about the future of Europe, which was launched by the [Commission's White Paper of 1 March 2017](#).

Delivering on the principles and rights defined in the European Pillar of Social Rights is a joint responsibility of Member States, EU institutions, social partners and other stakeholders.

The website of the European Pillar of Social Rights is available under:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en

ISSUE

The European Pillar of Social Rights is intended to drive forward a social Europe for all European citizen. The objective of the Pillar is to contribute to social progress by supporting fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems. It focuses on employment and social aspects to ensure that the European social model is fit for the challenges of the 21st century.

BACKGROUND

The Pillar was proclaimed and signed on the 17th of November 2017 by the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the Commission during the Gothenburg Social Summit for fair jobs and growth.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

The Social Pillar builds upon 20 key principles, structured around three chapters:

Chapter I: Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

This chapter covers the right to quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning.

It also addresses equality of treatment and opportunities between women and men, the right to equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection and education as well as the right to active support to employment.

Chapter II: Fair working conditions

This chapter covers conditions of employment such as access to social protection and training, the right to fair wages and the right to information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals.

The chapter also promotes social dialogue as a tool to negotiate and conclude collective agreements in relevant matters and addresses work-life-balance and the right to protection of health, safety and data at work.

Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion

This chapter encompasses the wider social environment. It sets out the right to affordable early childhood education, the right to adequate social protection and unemployment benefits, the right to minimum income benefits and the right of retired workers to resources that ensure living in dignity.

The chapter also covers the inclusion of people with disabilities and the access to health care, long term care, social housing or housing assistance and essential services such as water, sanitation, energy.

NEXT STEPS

Most of the competences and tools required to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights are in the hands of local, regional and national authorities, social partners as well as civil society. The European Commission flanks the European Pillar of Social Rights with a number of further concrete legislative and non-legislative initiatives such as on the work-life balance of parents and carers, on the information of workers, and on access to social protection and on working time.

The European Pillar of Social Rights is accompanied by a “social scoreboard” which will monitor the implementation of the Pillar by tracking trends and performances across EU countries in 12 areas and will feed into the European Semester of economic policy coordination.