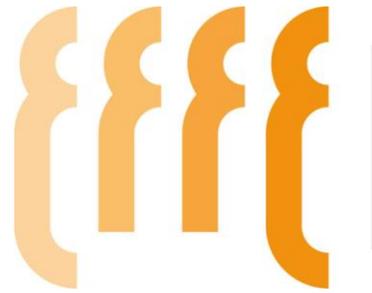


# FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES EMPLOIS DE LA FAMILLE



EUROPEAN  
FEDERATION  
FOR FAMILY  
EMPLOYMENT  
& HOME CARE

## SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2018

### ■ EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK

1. **EUROPEAN SUMMIT:** no progress on Brexit, debates on migration and reform of the Euro zone
2. **EUROPEAN ELECTIONS:** candidates will be elected in November for internal parties congress
3. **MACEDONIA:** A mixed result for the referendum
4. **LUXEMBOURG:** a very fragmented political landscape
5. **BREXIT:** the Summit on Brexit will take place ... one day
6. **ROMANIA:** the situation worries MEPs and the Commission
7. **ITALY:** budget deficit 2.4%
8. **EXTREME RIGHT:** Marine Le Pen and Matteo Salvini promise to represent an alternative to European leadership

### ■ SOCIAL EUROPE

9. **DIRECTIVE ON WORKING CONDITIONS:** the European Parliament significantly strengthens the provisions of the Directive
10. **EUROPEAN AGENCIES:** European Parliament and Council reach agreement on reform of Cedefop and EU-Osha, but not on Eurofound
11. **WORLD BANK:** Call for a new social contract
12. **ITALY:** Preschool Fees and Leaves for Dads or how to Spend 2.5 Billion Better and Increase Birth Rates
13. **EPSR:** Little progress on the European Pillar of Social Rights
14. **WRITTEN DIRECTIVE:** vote in EMPL committee on the revision of the Directive 'written declaration satisfies the unions, less the employers
15. **WORK LIFE BALANCE :** inter-institutional negotiations calendar

### ■ EUROPEAN FUNDING

16. **EUROPEAN BUDGET:** at the agenda of the European Summit of December
17. **ESF +:** MEPs divided on thematic concentrations of the European Social Fund +

### ■ EUROPEAN AGENDA

### ■ APPOINTMENTS

## ■ EUROPEAN POLICY FRAMEWORK

### 1. EUROPEAN SUMMIT: no progress on Brexit, debates on migration and reform of the Euro zone

Major issues awaited the Heads of State and Government at the European Summit of October 17 and 18. Brexit first since it was (in theory) the summit of the last chance. Although eventually no agreement was found on the Irish border, the atmosphere was relaxed. European negotiator Michel Barnier has received a few more weeks to try to reach an agreement, ideally by Christmas at the latest. According to the findings, the migration has given rise to a long debate, "civilized". Far, obviously, from last summer tensions between Italy and its partners. Yet on the merits, the 28 have not made progresses on the reform of the European asylum policy.

Italy also leaves with a slight reprieve. Since the Commission asks Rome for clarification first on its budget.

### 2. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: candidates will be elected in November for internal parties congress

#### ▪ EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP):

There will be two postulants in the EPP internal race for the candidacy for the presidency of the next Commission. Germany's Manfred Weber received the support of his party, the CSU (Bavarian Branch of the Right of Germany), the Dutch CDA and Nea Demokratia (Greece). For his part, Alexander Stubb is supported by the Finnish Conservatives (his party), Nya Moderaterna (Sweden) and Erakond (Estonia). EPP members will have to speak at the party congress in Helsinki on 8-9 November.

In a letter, the current European negotiator for Brexit announced this month that he will not run to become the Spitzenkandidat of the European People's Party. Michel Barnier believes that his duty is primarily to finish the negotiation with the United Kingdom, largely bogged down. Note that the French do not explicitly say he renounces becoming the next president of the European Commission.

**Viktor Orban**, the sulphurous Hungarian Prime Minister, supports the German candidate Manfred Weber. The latter, however, voted last September in favor of opening proceedings against Hungary for non-respect of the rule of law. However, he has never ventured to ask for the exclusion of Fidesz. On the other hand, Bavarian rival Alexander Stubb is campaigning for respect for values and the rule of law.

MEPs from the French right party LR hesitate - LR boss Laurent Wauquiez did not decide between the German CSU, leader of the European People's Party group in the Parliament, without any ministerial experience, or the former Finnish and former Prime Minister European deputy. Within the party, several elected French or European still believe in the chances of Michel Barnier. According to them, whoever is currently negotiating Brexit on behalf of the EU will be able to agree on a EPP that has come first in the weakened 2019 ballot and other political parties in Parliament. Another advantage according to his supporters: it represents a credible alternative to the appointment of a German head of the Commission ...

#### ▪ EUROPEAN SOCIALIST PARTY (PES):

Dutch Frans Timmermans, first Vice-president of the European Commission has officially announced his candidacy for Spitzenkandidat of the Party of European Socialists. He obtained, among other things, the support of the German Social Democrats.

Recall that Slovak Commissioner Maros Sefocovic has already submitted his candidacy. In the French newspaper JDD, he made a foot call to the French Socialists to get their support. He calls for an ideologically left-wing response that revisits social democracy without falling into liberalism. A very ideological foot call.

French Commissioner Pierre Moscovici will not be the Spitzenkandidat of the Party of European Socialists and even less the head of the PS's list in France in May 2019. Asked about a rallying potential for The Republic on the move, the Commissioner does not close any doors.

#### ▪ **AND IN FRANCE ?**

**THE PS WILL HAVE A LIST FOR THE EUROPEAN ON NOVEMBER 17** - In a circular sent to the federations and members of the National Council, the leadership of the Socialist Party specifies the timetable and the methods of the nomination on the list for the European elections. Applications must be submitted between October 15th and 26th. The national adoption council of the list will decide on November 17, before the vote of the members on the proposal of list, on November 29th. The official ratification is scheduled for December 15th. Note that candidates for the application will have to justify three years of seniority at the PS.

### **3. MACEDONIA: A mixed result for the referendum**

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, in Macedonia, 91% of voters voted in favor of changing the name of the country. A crushing victory for supporters of rapprochement with the EU, but low turnout casts doubt on the legitimacy of the vote. Only 36% of citizens moved. However, the Prime Minister considers that the consultative nature of the referendum does not oblige him to obtain the 50% provided for in the Constitution. He now wants two-thirds of the deputies to approve the new name (Republic of Macedonia of the North) provided for in the agreement with Greece. In case of failure, early elections could be organized.

### **4. LUXEMBOURG: a very fragmented political landscape**

The results of the legislative elections announce complicated negotiations to form a government. The center-right CSV, which had ruled the country for decades, was removed from power in 2013. While thinking of coming back to power, it is performing a poor performance, rising from 33 to 28%. The three parties in power are neck and neck, with about 15% of the votes each. Liberals and Social Democrats, members of the ruling coalition, fall, while the Greens make a breakthrough. Another winner of the poll, the Pirate Party, which goes from 3 to 8%.

### **5. BREXIT: the extraordinary summit on Brexit will take place ... one day**

Not enough progress on the negotiations at the moment. This is the analysis made by the leaders of the 27 Member States at their working dinner on October 17<sup>th</sup>, which led them to not validate the draft extraordinary European summit on Brexit. It was originally planned for November 18<sup>th</sup> and was supposed to allow to conclude all the agreements under discussion (withdrawal, transition, political declaration). Another date can be agreed if the work done by the European negotiator and his British counterparts leads to a compromise. "We do not want to set a new date yet to avoid dramatization," says a diplomatic source. Note that if no agreement emerges in the coming weeks, it will also be up to Michel Barnier to inform the Heads of State and Government, and the latter to take the decision to officially activate the measures to prepare the EU to a Brexit without agreement.

## 6. ROMANIA: the situation worries MEPs and the Commission

"The independence of the judiciary is essential if Romania wants to remain strong in the EU," declared the first Vice-President of the Commission on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Frans Timmermans was speaking during a debate on respect for the rule of law in Romania, in Parliament's plenary session. For several months, the socialist government has done everything to weaken the anti-corruption laws and thus to avoid imprisonment to its elected officials threatened by investigations. The Prime Minister, present for the occasion in Strasbourg, wanted to be reassuring. "Trust Romania to respect the rule of law, we will never depart from the European way. "Do not follow the bad example of Hungary and Poland," said the head of the Alliance of Liberals and European Democrats, Guy Verhofstadt.

## 7. ITALY: budget deficit 2.4%

The 5-star Movement and the League managed to impose on the Minister of Finance the financing of their electoral promises, which amount to more than 20 billion €. As for all the countries of the Euro Zone, the European Commission will have to approve this budget while the deficit will be higher than 2% (2.4% to be accurate) which does not respect the European budgetary rules (its objectives supposed to be under 1%). The markets responded to this announcement on September 28<sup>th</sup>, with a drop in Italian assets and a rise in interest rates.

On the side of the Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker said in an interview with Ansa news agency, on October 16 "If we accept the overrun (budget), some countries would cover us with insults and accuse us of being too much flexible with Italy".

Slowly but surely, the Italian budget emerges as a major European issue of autumn - The subject was officially not on the agenda of the European summit of October 18 in Brussels. But the president of the Commission acknowledged it, it was "briefly mentioned", even if the reactions were limited. Same reaction from the Austrian Presidency. Chancellor Sebastian Kurz said "We will certainly not pay the debt of others, and certainly not for the electoral promises of leftist populists". Behind the scenes, some diplomats are trying to procrastinate. "It is not up to the Council to decide on the subject, but to the Commission to analyze the figures and to say whether there is a problem or not". He sent a letter to the Italian government on the evening of October 18. The Commissioner for Economic Affairs and the Vice President for the Euro express their "serious concerns". They believe that the Italian budget presents high risks of "non-compliance" with European budgetary rules.

EU / IT - Italy maintains budget despite criticism from Commission -

In parallel, ahead of the growth forecast at 1.9% (while the IMF forecasts 1%) and the deficit at 2.4% of GDP while the debt already represents 131%, the rating agency Moody's has taken ahead by degrading on October 19 Italy's rating from "Baa2" to "Baa3", the last rank before the speculative category. The Italian budget copy is indeed judged "largely out of the nails" of the stability treaty by the Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Pierre Moscovici. Rome has until Monday, October 22 at noon to "clarify" its budget, and otherwise risk rejection by the Commission. Even though Deputy Prime Minister Luigi Di Maio, leader of the 5-Star Movement, said there was no desire to leave the Euro Zone and the European currency.

## **8. EXTREME RIGHT: Marine Le Pen and Matteo Salvini promise to represent an alternative to European leadership**

The President of the French National party, Marine Le Pen, and the Italian Minister of the Interior, Matteo Salvini, announced their ambition, to propose in 2019 "a change of European leadership", in Rome on October 8.

The rhetoric used by the two allies is still the same, namely the "pathetic" record of the EU, which was built on "many promises" and "few achievements". This is due to the "bad political choices" of officials such as the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, or the Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Pierre Moscovici, who are often targeted.

They want to reverse this trend by putting "the people, their security, their identity, their prosperity" at the center of concern, Le Pen said.

She also distanced herself from ex-Trump counselor, Steve Bannon and his foundation, The Movement. "Mr. Bannon does not come from a European country," she said. And to clarify: "we are the political force that will emerge from the elections in Europe and we alone will structure it". Although Le Pen excluded the possibility of a "common list" with Salvini, she nevertheless assured that their parties would work hand-in-hand at the European Parliament in a group they hoped to be "as powerful as possible" or even to the majority.

**MATTEO SALVINI PROPOSES TO BE CANDIDATE FOR COMMISSION PRESIDENCY** - He admits to think about it even if "at the moment, between the budget, Europe, immigrants I did not have time to evaluate the proposal. In an interview given to La Repubblica, he says that "friends from different European countries ask me for it, propose it to me [...] it is nice that they see me as a point of reference for the defense of peoples, even outside. from Italy".

**A SPITZENKANDIDAT SUPPORTED BY FAR RIGHT PARTIES, IS POSSIBLE?** - In 2014, the far-right parties refused to present Spitzenkandidaten, believing that this amounted to recognizing the democratic legitimacy of the EU. An application by Matteo Salvini would change the situation. This project echoes Marine Le Pen's remarks held on October 8th (see above).

## **■ SOCIAL EUROPE**

### **9. DIRECTIVE ON WORKING CONDITIONS: the European Parliament significantly strengthens the provisions of the Directive**

MEPs from the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) have significantly strengthened the provisions of the Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions, in particular by extending its scope to contract workers and demand "zero hours", platforms and self-employed, and strengthening the protection of workers in general, in a vote by a majority (30 votes in favor, 7 against and 11 abstentions) on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

The points of division did not fail, beginning with the definition of the concept of "worker" - one of the significant new elements introduced by the Commission. Knowing that a majority would be difficult to build around a European definition, Mr Calvet Chambon preferred to remove it from the article establishing the definitions and concepts of the Directive and to incorporate it in the article on purpose of the Directive by referring to the case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

Thus, the directive applies to any natural person who provides services for a certain period on behalf of and under the direction of another person in exchange for remuneration and where there is a minimum degree of dependence or subordination.

This approach can cover a large number of cases, according to several sources, including "freelancers", but not "independent workers". In addition, the proposed micro-enterprise exemption was not adopted, as was the exemption introduced by the Commission for contracts of less than eight hours per month.

It should be noted that the wording adopted remains broadly similar to that proposed by the European Commission. On the Council side, the proposal to define the concept of "worker" was rejected in order to avoid creating a mess with national laws.

Information

Another notable point is that the deadlines for the transmission of worker information are divided into two stages. Thus, essential information will be provided in writing no later than the first day worked, and "secondary" information must be provided no later than seven days later. The Commission wanted all information to be provided as from the first working day, while the Council was developing a system also in two stages, but with different deadlines. The dates of the interinstitutional meetings are not yet known.

## **10. EUROPEAN AGENCIES: European Parliament and Council reach agreement on reform of Cedefop and EU-Osha, but not on Eurofound**

At the end of the 7th Interinstitutional Meeting, on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached an agreement on the reform of the European Center for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and the Agency European Union for Safety and Health at Work (EU-Osha). However, no agreement could be reached on the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound).

In August 2016, the Commission proposed a joint reform of the three agencies, in line with the joint declaration of the Parliament, the EU Council and the European Commission on decentralized agencies of 19 July 2012.

For Cedefop rapporteur Anne Sander (EPP, France), one of the great victories was being able to present the presence of a representative of the European Parliament on the Board of Directors, whether for Cedefop or for EU-Osha .

Current regulations do not provide for it.

Another source of satisfaction for Parliament is that the role of the executive director of each agency has been clarified and strengthened and the candidate for this post will have to appear before the MEPs of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL).

Only the Eurofound regulation remains in abeyance. Noting the lack of consensus, the co-legislators decided to postpone the decision.

## **11. WORLD BANK: Call for a new social contract**

In a report, the World Bank called on the European Union to make important reforms to work, taxation and universal well-being. According to the arguments put forward, the EU must adapt to "a radical change in its economic system ... and help mitigate the polarized societies and growing tensions that fuel populism in Europe".

The World Bank has made three main proposals: The EU should promote flexible labor markets and increase protection for all types of employment contracts (especially because of the growing economy of concerts); the EU should improve the well-being of all citizens through better social services; and it should establish fairer tax bases and move them away from income only to also target the highest capital and incomes.

## 12. ITALY: Preschool Fees and Leaves for Dads or how to Spend 2.5 Billion Better and Increase Birth Rates

This is the integral transcription of a report published last October 22 by one of Italy's main newspapers, the *Corriere della Sera*, written by journalist Milena Gabanelli in collaboration with Rita Querezè. A thorough analysis of how public money is spent in Italy to stimulate fertility, focusing on proposals that could improve welfare, including an Assindatcolf suggestion to support families by making babysitting expense totally deductible.

**IN ITALY, BIRTH RATES HAVE BEEN DROPPING FOR THE LAST NINE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.** In 2017, there were 474 thousand births, half the amount of the early sixties. If Italians don't go back to having children, it will become increasingly difficult for them to support pensions and healthcare services for the all of the country's elderly. The GDP will grow less and less and, even in the fortunate event of full employment, there will always be fewer people at work. Budgetary discussions focus a lot on pensions and very little on children. Perhaps it is because, unlike children the elderly are many, and they vote. Yet, a closer look at the figures shows that something could be done, without increasing spending. The question is: do Italians still want to have children? The answer is yes. As revealed by the *Istituto degli Innocenti*, a public corporation focused on children affairs in Florence, women aged between 25 and 39 would like to have an average of 1.85 children each. Instead, they end up having less than one (0.80) each. Their reasons for not having more children are often inter-related: their fear to be unable to support their young while maintaining a decent lifestyle crosses with the lack of affordable services, starting with daycare.

**ONLY 23 PLACES ARE AVAILABLE IN PRESCHOOL FOR EVERY 100 CHILDREN – TODAY ITALY SPENDS 26 BILLION EUROS A YEAR ON FAMILY AND BIRTH SUPPORT POLICIES (EUROSTAT, 2017).** Public resources are used on a heap of measures, many of which remain unknown to potential beneficiaries, so that their real benefit are never verified. In practice, the State choses to put money into the pockets of families and neglects services. Only 23 children out of 100 can aspire to be enrolled into Preschool; the ratio has increased over the last years but only because of declining birth rates. "Actually, it has been established that Countries with less inequality are those with better services" says Luigi Campiglio, an economist at the Cattolica University.

**THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE (MEF) DOES NOT SAY HOW IT SPENDS ITS MONEY –** In order to find out how things really are, one must do some counting and accept the risk of inevitable approximations but since the **MEF does not provide the detail of its Family Policy expenditures, we had to do the math ourselves.**

The lowest expenditure items are Preschool (250 million in 2018) expenses coverage funds. Followed by a long list of bonuses. **In the end, the bulk of resources is used on deductions for dependent family members in proportion to family income: 12.7 billion.** Including deductions for dependent spouses. Amounting to? The only information made available by the Ministry of Economy is that there are about 3.9 million dependant spouses in Italy. If the average deduction amounts to 650 Euros per dependant spouse per year (as observed by the Fiscal Assistance Center of the CISL Trade Union Organization), it would come to a total of 2.5 billion Euros/year. Of course, not all these deductions go to families that could have children, but most do. A questionable expense, especially since it discourages female labour participation. After all, why should a Mom look for a 1200 Euros/month job knowing that her family would lose around 650 Euros a year and would have to spend another 500-700 Euros a month to pay for daycare? It's better to stay home and think twice before having a second child, because

it's hard for a family of four to get by on a single salary. No wonder Italy has become an only-child country.

**MORE DAYCARE AND MORE DISCOUNTS ON PARENTAL FEES.** So how could we spend these funds better? **It would be useful to focus on 5 points. The most urgent ones are to increase the number of places available in Pre-school and reduce the cost of parental fees** (since the crisis, many of parents who manage to get their child on a waiting-list end up having to refuse the place because they cannot afford the fee). According to an estimate by ANCI (the National Association of Italian Communes), it would take 873 million Euros a year to raise current coverage of pre-schooling services from 23.8% to 33%. This takes us to fees. In 2019, a National Pre-school bonus provides for a 90 Euros discount on monthly fees. If the State put an extra 600 million in, families could count on discounts worth up to 270 Euros. Perhaps this could stimulate the reproductive instinct of those who don't have the help of grandparents. Note that currently the bonus is paid in full, no matter the income, while it would make sense to introduce a threshold and progressive limitations.

**BABY SITTING: DEDUCTIONS FROM THE TAXABLE INCOME – THIRD: Preschool is often not enough.** Those who have children know it all: when they're small, they often get sick and preschool hours don't always coincide with working hours, **so that babysitting services become necessary. Usually paid under the table, of course, because current deduction opportunities for those who pay over the table are ridiculous. Assindatcolf did the math:** the service of a hired babysitter working three hours a day from Monday to Friday would cost a family as much as 8000 Euros a year between salary and contributions. If the State allowed this amount to be fully deducted from the taxable income, families would save close to 2500 Euros a year. A measure that would cost the public purse 245 million Euros per year, but that would help the emergence of undeclared work.

**SCHOOLS OPENED IN THE SUMMER – FOUR: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE JUNE TO SEPTEMBER PERIOD, WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED?** Milan, Turin, Bologna are looking for answers. In Bologna, the commune entrusts to Non-Profit Associations the management of school facilities. Families pay a fee of 80-100 Euros a week, trimmed to 10-30 Euros for those whose ISEE (Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator) fall under 28000 Euros gross per year (the remaining 70 are subsidized by the Commune and the Region). Given that 15% of the kids aged between 3 and 11 end up attending (a ratio also confirmed by other cities), projecting these figures at a national level, it would cost about 300 Euros a year to extend the service to the entire territory.

**LEAVES FOR DADS – LAST POINT: BIRTH LEAVES FOR DADS.** Today Dads are entitled to two mandatory days and two facultative, but as of next year this measure will be dropped. Instead, it is crucial to not only to reconfirm it but to extend it to 5 days. The cost for the State would rise from 23 million Euros to 50. In the long run, leaves could go up to 15 days: the most farsighted and healthy businesses are already providing, paying from their own pocket.

### 13. EPSR: Little progress on the European Pillar of Social Rights

Member States appear to be in no hurry to implement the social pillar. The Austrian Presidency has just canceled, for no apparent reason, a ministerial meeting on this subject. The Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO) meeting scheduled for October 11 has been canceled by the Austrian EU Presidency. A decision that many observers have interpreted as a step back from the European commitment. The meeting was to focus on the progress of the social rights pillar, and particularly on the establishment of a European labor authority.

The diverging approaches of governments in terms of commitment to the social pillar are reflected in the gaps in their work-life balance policies.

Germany, Finland and Slovenia are among the European states that favor companies offering flexible hours to their employees. In Belgium, they are entitled to a "career break", which allows them to reduce their hours or take a full year off.

Nearly 40% of those surveyed by the European Quality of Life Survey in 2016 indicated that they had difficulty meeting all of their family responsibilities because of the time they spend at work. It is in the south and east of the continent that these problems are most accentuated.

In Latvia and Cyprus, 67% and 96% find that work makes it difficult to meet family obligations. On the other hand, Scandinavian countries have the most satisfactory balance.

The countries where reconciliation between family and professional life is the easiest are those where women participate the most in the economy: in Scandinavia and in northern Europe.

### **SOCIAL PARTNERS INTEND TO PRESENT A JOINT WORK PROGRAM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS**

The social partners (ETUC, BusinessEurope, CEEP, UEAPME) announced, in the context of the tripartite social summit on October 16<sup>th</sup>, the preparation of a joint work program for the implementation of the Pillar.

This joint work program is expected to be presented in January 2019, once the different organizations have received the approval of their members. The main themes of structuring would be digital technology, the skills of workers (often unsuitable for the needs of the market) as well as risks and psychosocial aspects at work. A draft agreement has already been circulated between the social partners.

On the issue of skills, Eurochambres President Christoph Leitzl called for the organization of a European Skills Summit to discuss a short, medium and long term action plan.

#### **14. WRITTEN DIRECTIVE: vote in EMPL committee on the revision of the Directive 'written declaration satisfies the unions, less the employers**

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the Directive establishing transparent and predictable working conditions (revising the Written declaration Directive) was voted in the European Parliament's EMPL Committee. It greatly enhances the provisions of the European Commission's proposal, and the vote has provoked contradictory reactions among the social partners.

On the employers' side, UEAPME, representing SMEs and crafts, denounced the administrative burden that the approved text would entail. The organization believes that the text as amended by MEPs could discourage entrepreneurs from recruiting, which highlights the determination of MEPs to add a requirement for the provision of essential information from day one. The organization also regrets that the European Parliament has introduced the principle of *foreseeability*.

On the trade union side, however, the text voted was well received. "The vote was crucial because it shows that the EU is able to respond to the needs of vulnerable workers who are victims of unfair flexible contracts," said the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC), noting that the text was one of the achievements of the EU. the European pillar of social rights.

- The Directive covers zero-hour contracts and low-paid workers, platform workers, freelancers and most people working in the private and public sectors;
- Essential information is communicated from the first day (including posted workers);
- Employers will no longer be able to charge employees for their training, and will have to pay for it;

- The maximum trial period is six months;
- The Directive guarantees the rights of workers' representatives.

The unions hope that Parliament will vote the report next week in plenary.

## 15. WORK LIFE BALANCE : inter-institutional negotiations calendar

### WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER

1. The "work-life balance" directive proposes that each parent, at the birth of a child, be entitled to four months of paid leave up to the level of sickness benefits. France strongly opposes it.
2. COREPER on 13 June, bringing together the permanent representatives of the EU, left two political points unresolved:
  - Transferability between the father and mother of parental leave
  - Compensation arrangements and vacation periods
3. At the EPSCO on Thursday, 21 June, EU Member States agreed on non-transferable paid parental leave with pay set at an "adequate" level of a month and a half. Unsurprisingly, the Directive has been considerably watered down by the Member States.
4. On July 11 MEPs from the EMPL Committee voted on David Casa's report with a level of paid paternity leave at 80% of gross salary and 78% for parental and care leave.

More than 300 organizations and a group of MEPs are calling on the Employment Ministers to agree to start negotiations on the future Work-Life Balance Directive.

A Commission survey revealed that in 2017 only five Member States gave parents with a child under 12 the right to request flexible hours.

The adoption of more family-friendly practices is an essential point of the proposed Directive. However, it must be adopted before the end of the current mandate in 2019. The EU ministers agreed on a common position at the end of June, and the trilogue negotiations with the MEPs are still ongoing.

The Commission is now at an impasse. It does not have the power to impose a social policy model on the Member States, and Jean-Claude Juncker himself admitted in his State of the Union address of 2017 that "the national social systems would still be long divergent."

## ■ EUROPEAN FUNDING

### 16. EUROPEAN BUDGET: at the agenda of the European Summit of December

This was stated by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, at a tripartite social summit on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The new multiannual financial framework 2021-2027 was presented in May by the European Commission. Which still hopes to obtain at least a political agreement on the overall amounts of the various envelopes by the elections of May 2019. "The positions of the Twenty-Seven are not so far away", said the Commissioner for the Budget, Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. The December European summit will be held on 13 and 14. For its part, Parliament has planned to adopt its interim report on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

## 17. ESF +: MEPs divided on thematic concentrations of the European Social Fund +

### WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER

1. The European Social Fund should be transformed into ESF + for the next 2021-2027 programming, according to the Commission's proposal presented on 29 May.
2. Resulting from the merger of several funds, the ESF + should receive € 101.2 billion over the period, with a more direct link to the "European semester" (the Commission's annual reform recommendations).
3. The debate is launched in the European Parliament, an own-initiative report will be voted in October

MEPs from the EMPL Committee of the European Parliament were divided on October 18<sup>th</sup> on the issue of thematic mergers of the future European Social Fund (ESF +).

As a reminder, the European Commission proposes that 25% of ESF + resources be directed towards social inclusion, 2% towards material deprivation, and 10% towards youth employment in Member States where the unemployment rate of 15 to 29 year olds is high. The rapporteur, Verónica Lope Fontagné (EPP, Spain) proposes to increase the share of youth employment aid from 10% to 15% and to focus the social inclusion priority on extreme poverty and to redirect the fight against extreme poverty towards social inclusion.

According to the rapporteur, Article 7 on thematic mergers will be one of the most difficult issues in the negotiations. MEPs are divided. Many of them propose a 25% to 30% increase in resources devoted to social inclusion.

On the contrary, some agree on a rate of 25%, not including third-country nationals or only those who "legally" reside in Europe. The German Terry Reintke, shadow rapporteur of the Greens / EFA, on the contrary proposes to reserve 2% for third-country nationals.

The question of the link between the ESF + budget process and the "European Semester" and co-financing will also be on the agenda.

## ■ EUROPEAN AGENDA - OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2018

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>■ <b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>  <b>1<sup>st</sup> to 4 and 22 to 25</b> - Plenary Session in Strasbourg  <b>8, 9 and 18</b> - Committee EMPL meeting</p> <p>■ <b>EUROPEAN COUNCIL</b>  <b>18 and 19</b> - European Council  <b>11 and 12</b> - Council of Ministers in EPSCO  <b>7</b> - legislative elections in Latvia  <b>14 - 15</b> - legislative elections in Luxemburg and regional elections in Bavaria</p>	<p>■ <b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>  <b>12 to 15 and 28 and 29</b> - Plenary Session in Strasbourg  <b>5 - 19 and 20 - 26 and 27</b> - Committee EMPL meeting            Vote in the Employment Committee on the proposal for a regulation on the ESF Social Fund +</p> <p><b>8 and 9</b> - Congress of the European People's Party (EPP) in Helsinki            Nomination of the Conservative candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission.</p> <p><b>8 and 9</b> - Congress of the European Liberal Party in Madrid            Nomination of the ALDE candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission.</p> <p><b>23-25</b> - Congress of the European Green Party in Berlin            Designation of the ecologist candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission.</p> <p>■ <b>EFFE</b>  <b>22 - 23</b> - Policy visits for the PRODOME project (Madrid)  <b>28</b> - Orientation Council in Paris</p>	<p>■ <b>EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT</b>  <b>10 to 13</b> - Plenary Session in Strasbourg  <b>3</b> - Committee EMPL meeting</p> <p>■ <b>EUROPEAN COUNCIL</b>  <b>6 and 7</b> - Council of Ministers in EPSCO  <b>13-14</b> - European Council  <b>7 - 8</b> - Congress of the Party of European Socialists            Designation of the Socialist</p>

## ■ APPOINTMENTS

### COMMISSION

- Competition Commissioner **Margrethe Vestager** told the Danish government that she wanted to keep her job during the Commission's next mandate, even though her party was in opposition.
- Similarly, the Commissioner for Justice, **Věra Jourová**, is also trying to convince the Czech Prime Minister, Andrej Babiš, to appoint her again next year.
- **Alexandra Jour-Schröder** replaces **Francisco Fonseca Morillo**, who has become head of the Commission's representation in Madrid. The Directorate-General for Justice is responsible for issues relating to personal data and the "New Deal" for consumers.

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- **Andrus Ansip**, Vice-President of the European Commission in charge of the Digital Single Market will be a candidate to the 2019 European elections. Member of the ALDE party, he was Prime Minister of Estonia from 2005 to 2014, before being elected deputy in Brussels. A role that he endorsed only a few months, since he became Vice-President of the European Commission in November 2014.

### ECOSYSTEM

- Juncker plan: Parliament's Economic Affairs and Budgets Committees voted on October 9<sup>th</sup> for a second term for **Wilhelm Molterer** and **Iliyana Tsanova**, currently Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of the European Investment Fund. strategic investments (FESI or "Juncker Investment Plan"). MEPs also support the candidacy of former European Commissioner **Laszlo Andor** for the steering committee of the plan - the final decision will come this time from the Conference of Presidents of Parliament.
- **Koen Lenaerts**, outgoing President was re-elected President of the Court of Justice of the European Union. From Belgium, he has been in post since 2015.

## About EFFE

Created in 2012, the European Federation for Family Employment (EFFE) chaired by Marie Béatrice Levaux is based on the principles of: free choice of lifestyle and support of citizens in their homes; respect for the private home; social and citizen responsibility.

The EFFE ([www.effe-homecare.eu](http://www.effe-homecare.eu)) promotes and defends home-based employment within the European institutions: it is committed to bringing a model of social innovation to the service of European citizens through the services and jobs of the family at home, relaying the EU 2020 strategy for a "sustainable social market economy". Social inclusion is the keyword and remain at the heart of the sector as a source of economic growth through the creation of mass jobs and the fight against undeclared work.

**Marie Béatrice Levaux** (FEPEM) - President; **Andrea Zini** (ASSINDATCOLF) - Vice President; **Karmele Acedo** (Grupo SSI) - Secretary General; **Anita Poutard** (IPERIA-The Institute) - Treasurer.

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LAVORO DOMESTICO  
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