

15 January 2018

MMM response to the European Commission Public consultation on a possible EU action addressing the challenges of access to social protection for people in all forms of employment in the framework of the European Pillar of Social Rights

### **Questionnaire**

Providing access to social protection and related employment services for people in all forms of employment is crucial not only for the economic and social safety of the workforce, but also for well-functioning labour markets and economies that create quality jobs and sustainable growth. Yet, there are groups of employed who are left without sufficient access to social protection and related employment services. The Commission has identified and described relevant challenges in the background document.

Respondents to this questionnaire are recommended to read the background document before proceeding.

1. The background document identifies some challenges regarding social protection and related employment services.

Do you agree with the identification of the challenges outlined in the background document?

	i do agree	l rather agree	not agree	agree	l don't know
Gaps in formal coverage	0	0	0	•	0
Gaps in effective coverage	•	0	0	0	0
Insufficient transferability of rights	•	0	0	0	0
Insufficient transparency of rights and	•	0	0	0	0
Regulatory complexity	•	0	0	0	0
There are other challenges in access to social protection and employment services	•	0	0	0	0

Please specify:

200 character(s) maximum



Conditionality: changes to benefits requirements have resulted in lower take-up & widespread reduction of coverage, duration & adequacy of benefits

2. Social protection covers several benefits and services from unemployment benefits to long-term care, and employment services are connected to some of these benefits.

Which areas of social protection and employment services (listed below) do you consider to be relevant for a possible EU initiative promoting access?

2.1 for workers in non-stand list)	dard forms of	employment	? (please choo	ose max. 3 iter	ns on th
Social protection:					
	High relevar	Medium nce relevanc		Not relevant at e all	Don't know
Unemployment benefits					
Sickness benefits					
Benefits in respect of accide at work and occupational diseases	ents				
Old-age benefits					
Invalidity benefits					
Survivor's benefits					
Maternity and equivalent paternity benefits	<b>V</b>				
Family benefits	•				
Health care					
Long-term care	<b>~</b>				
2.1 for workers in non-stand	dard forms of	employment	?		
Employment services:					
	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not relevant at all	Don't know
Guidance, counselling and placement			<b>~</b>		
Training and updating skills	•				
Rehabilitation and re-	=	_	_	_	_

~

insertion measures



### 2.2 for self- employed? (please choose max. 3 items on the list)

### **Social protection:**

	High releva	Mediur nce relevar		Not relevan ce all	t at know
Unemployment benefits					
Sickness benefits					
Benefits in respect of accide at work and occupational diseases	ents				
Old-age benefits					
Invalidity benefits					
Survivor's benefits					
Maternity and equivalent paternity benefits	•				
Family benefits	<b>✓</b>				
Health care					
Long-term care	•				
2.2 for self- employed?					
<b>Employment services:</b>					
	High relevance	Medium relevance	Low relevance	Not releva at all	ant Don't know
Guidance, counselling and placement					
Training and updating skills		✓			
Rehabilitation and re- insertion measures		•			

3. Some common principles could be promoted to help increase access to social protection and employment services to all people, regardless of their form of employment, and so foster upward social convergence in the EU. Do you think that the following general policy principles should be pursued by a possible EU initiative?

I do	Lrathor	I rather	I do	I don't
		do not	not	
agree	agree	agree	agree	know



empl comp	rdless of the type and duration of their oyment relationship, workers, and, under varable conditions, the self-employed, have ght to adequate social protection;	•	0	0	0	0
	rights to individuals as they work (and not contract) and making rights transferable;	•	0	0	0	0
	ng rights and related information parent;	•	0	0	0	0
Simpl	ifying administrative requirements.	•	0	0	0	0
No ac	ction required	0	0	0	•	0
Action region 4.1 W	ility, low-levels of benefits, complexity of runt to address gaps in access to social protectional level.  Thich avenues do you consider most appropronal and effective coverage by social propronal and effective coverage by social propronal and effective coverage by social propronal and effective coverage by social propropronal and effective coverage by social proproproproproproproproproproproproprop	on ma	y be tal	ken at EU	, nationa	l and
4.1.1.	for non-standard forms of employment  1 The social protection rights and obligation d: (Please choose only one answer from the l		yet forn	nally cove	ered	
	e mandatory (for every kind of job, irrespecti	•	he tyne	of contra	act)	
O b	e voluntary (for every kind of job where gaps ontract)				•	f
	e partly mandatory and partly voluntary (for respective of the type of contract)	every	kind of	job where	e gaps ex	ist,
O re	emain as they are (no action required)					
effect      N      A	2 What should be the level of protection in the lively covered? (Please choose only one answard and atory protection and contributions align minimum level of mandatory protection and a employment	er fro ed to t	m the li the leve	st) I of stand	ard work	ers
	ifferentiated levels are defined					
O R	emain as it is (no action required)					

**4.1.1.3. What is the most appropriate way to ensure effective coverage?** (Multiple answers possible)



~	A single social protection scheme co	overing all	people in em	ployment				
	Specific mandatory social protectio criteria, contribution rules and bene specificities of each group				•	on		
	Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income people in non-standard forms of employment to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a mandatory basis in social protection schemes.							
	Access to unemployment benefits and employment services tied with activation measures for all people in employment, regardless of their employment contract							
	Automatic enrolment with opt-out	clauses						
	Creation of voluntary schemes according administrative burden	ompanied v	with better inf	ormation	and reduce	ed		
	Tailoring better the qualification cri of the voluntary schemes to the nec				fits' calcula	tion		
	Temporary and decreasing incentive of employment to enable them to find basis in social protection schemes		• •					
	Other							
pro em <sub> </sub>	1.4 In your view, is there a need for tection and related employment seroloyment where gaps exist?  Yes  No I don't know							
acti	at elements from sections 4.1.1.1, 4 on? character(s) maximum	I.1.1.2 and	l 4.1.1.3 shoul	d be addr	essed by El	J		
Wh	at kind of EU policy instrument(s) w	ould be m	ost effective?					
		Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know		
-	prove the implementation of the sting EU-level legislative framework	•	0	0	0	0		
	roduce new EU legislation (ex: ective)	•	0	0	0	0		



adł	roduce soft EU legislation to be nered by MS on a voluntary basis : Council recommendation)	0	0	•	0	0
mo Soc	engthen EU level coordination and nitoring (e.g European semester, cial Open Method of Coordination, ployment guidelines, benchmarks)	0	•	0	0	0
Exc	hange of best practices	0	0	•	0	0
A c	ombination of two or more of the ove	•	0	0	0	0
	ase specify character(s) maximum					
	t legislation has been the tool used to framework maybe in combination w				legislate a	nd change
	Which avenues do you consider mo s in formal and effective coverage l		-		challenges	of the
	2 for self-employed not yet covere	-	•			
	2.1 The social protection rights and the list)	lobliga	ations should	l (Please cho	ose only o	ne answe
•	be mandatory for all self-employed	ł				
0	be voluntary for self-employed not	yet co	vered			
0	be partly mandatory and partly vol	untary				
0	remain as they are (no action requi	ired)				
<b>4.1</b> . list)	2.2 What should be the level of pro	otectio	<b>n?</b> (Please ch	oose only or	ne answer	from the
•	Mandatory protection and contribu	ution a	ligned to the	level of stan	dard work	ers
0	A minimum level of mandatory pro in employment	tection	n and contrib	ution is defir	ned for all	people
0	Differentiated levels are defined fo	r self-e	employed acc	ording to th	eir specific	needs
0	Remain as it is (no action required)					
Д 1	2.3 What is the most appropriate w	vay to	ensure effec	tive coverso	e? (Multin	le answer

possible)

A single social protection scheme could be envisaged to cover all people in employment



	Specific mandatory social protection schemes could co-exist and their qualification criteria, contribution rules and benefit calculation could be tailored to the specificities of each									
	The choice of contributing to a public or private insurance scheme is left open to self- employed as long as they are part of an insurance scheme which would protect them in case of need									
	Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income self-employed to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a mandatory basis in social protection schemes									
	Access to unemployment benefits a measures	and emplo	yment service	s tied with	activation					
	Automatic enrolment with opt-out	clauses								
	Creation of voluntary schemes acco	ompanied v	with better inf	ormation	and reduce	ed .				
	Tailoring better the qualification cri of the voluntary schemes to the ne				fits' calcula	tion				
	Temporary and decreasing incentives for low income self-employed to to enable them to fully and/or effectively participate on a voluntary basis in the social protection schemes									
	Other									
	2.4 In your view, is there a need for tection for self-employed where ga		action to ensu	ire access	to social					
•	Yes									
0	No									
0	I don't know									
acti	What elements from sections 4.1.1.1, 4.1.1.2 and 4.1.1.3 should be addressed by EU action?  500 character(s) maximum									
Wh	at kind of EU policy instrument(s) w	ould be m	ost effective?	•						
		Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know				
-	prove the implementation of the sting EU-level legislative framework	•	0	0	0	0				
Inti	Introduce new EU legislation									



Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	0	0	•	0	0
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of Coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	0	•	0	0	0
Exchange of best practices	0	0	•	0	0
A combination of two or more of the above	•	0	0	0	0

### Please specify

200 character(s) maximum

# 4.2 Transferability and transparency of social protection rights could help to ensure secure labour market transitions. Which avenues do you consider most appropriate to address those gaps?

	Highly appropriate	Moderately Appropriate	Low appropriate	Not appropriate at all	Don't know
Stipulating minimum standards for timely acquisition, preservation and transferability of social protection and employment service rights	•	0	0	0	0
Creation of individual accounts for social protection and/or employment service rights (in order to avoid losses of social entitlements when changing jobs)	•	0	0	0	0
Simplifying administrative procedures	•	0	0	0	0

## 4.2.1 If your response is highly or moderately appropriate, is there a need for EU-level action?

Yes No	I don't
res no	know



Stipulating minimum standards for timely acquisition, preservation and transferability of social protection and employment service rights						0
Creation of individual accoun service rights (in order to avo changing jobs)	-		-		nt	
Simplifying administrative pro	ocedures				•	0 0
If yes, what kind of EU policy	instrument(s	s) would	d be most	effective?		
		ghly fective	Moderate effective	ely Low effecti	Not ve effect at all	ive Don't
Introduce new EU legislation	•		0	0	0	0
Introduce soft EU legislation to adhered by MS on a voluntary (ex: Council recommendation	y basis O		0	•	0	0
Strengthen EU level coordina monitoring (e.g European ser Social Open Method of Coord employment guidelines, bend	nester, lination,		•	0	0	0
Exchange of best practices	0		0	•	0	0
A combination of two or mor above	e of the		0	0	0	0
Please specify 200 character(s) maximum - 4.3 The background documer groups. Which avenues do yo gaps in access to employmen	u consider m					
gaps in access to employmen					Not	
	Highly appropriate	Mode Appro	-	ow opropriate	appropria	ate Know
Access to employment services for workers should be ensured, irrespective of type of contract, and for self-employed	•	0	С	)	0	0
Some social protection benefits should be bound to the participation in specific	0	0	O	)	•	0



employment related programmes.

action to ensure that rights and obligat gaps exist?		<del>-</del>			
<ul><li>Yes</li></ul>					
C No					
O I don't know					
If yes, what kind of EU policy instrumer	nt(s) would	d be most effe	ective?		
	Highly effective	Moderately effective	Low effective	Not effective at all	Don't know
Improve the implementation of the existing EU-level legislative framework	•	0	0	0	0
Introduce new EU legislation	•	0	0	0	0
Introduce soft EU legislation to be adhered by MS on a voluntary basis (ex: Council recommendation)	0	0	•	0	0
Strengthen EU level coordination and monitoring (e.g European semester, Social Open Method of coordination, employment guidelines, benchmarks)	0	•	0	0	0
Exchange of best practices	0	0	•	0	0
A combination of two or more of the above	•	0	0	0	0
Please specify: 200 character(s) maximum Soft legislation has been the tool used u the framework maybe in combination w			_	gislate and	change
5. According to your assessment, the in in all forms of employment would be p	-			rights mar	ndatory
			positiv	e neutral r	negative
The European society: Cohesion in socie	ety		•	0 (	0
The European society: Intergenerationa	al justice		•	0 (	)
The labour market: Labour market tran	sitions		•	0 (	)
The labour market: Transparency			•	0 (	0
The economy: Competitiveness			•	0 (	)



The economy: Resilience and adaptability	•	0	0
The economy: Economic growth	•	0	0
The workers: Security of workers	•	0	0
The workers: Investment in people and their skills	•	0	0
Social protection and public finances: Financial sustainability of social protection systems	•	0	0
Social protection and public finances: Adequacy of social protection benefits and services	•	0	0
Social protection and public finances: Public budget	0	•	0
Small and medium sized enterprises: Cost	0	•	0
Small and medium sized enterprises: Competition	0	•	0

## 5.1 In your opinion, what is the most important positive and negative impact of making social protection rights mandatory in all forms of employment?

400 character(s) maximum

Making social protection rights mandatory for all forms of employment would prevent situations of discrimination and abuse, while fostering transparency and promoting a level playing field both among workers and companies. It will be positive to promote female entrepreneurship as currently being self-employed penalises women and therefore they prefer to have employee status.

## 6. According to your assessment, the impact of making social protection rights voluntary where gaps currently exist would be

	positi	positive neutral negative		
The European society: Cohesion in society	0	0	•	
The European society: Intergenerational justice	0	0	•	
The labour market: Labour market transitions	0	0	•	
The labour market: Transparency	0	0	•	
The economy: Competitiveness	0	0	•	
The economy: Resilience and adaptability	0	0	•	
The economy: Economic growth	0	0	•	
The workers: Security of workers	0	0	•	
The workers: Investment in people and their skills	0	0	•	
Social protection and public finances: Financial sustainability of social protection systems	0	0	•	
Social protection and public finances: Adequacy of social protection benefits and services	0	0	•	
Social protection and public finances: Public budgets	0	0	•	



Small and medium sized enterprises: Cost	0	•	0
Small and medium sized enterprises: Competition	0	•	0

## 6.1 In your opinion, what is the most important positive and negative impact of making social protection rights voluntary where gaps currently exist?

400 character(s) maximum

Making social protection rights voluntary would fail to reach the goals set by this initiative, i.e. ensure effective access to social protection for all workers, notably the most vulnerable ones, women in part-time, temporary work etc.

### 7. If you have any additional comments and/or suggestions, feel free to use the open answer box below.

1500 character(s) maximum

#### This initiative should be complemented with:

- universal non-discriminatory access to social protection and services for all including caregivers (who are mainly women) who provide informal care and end up in poverty in old age: Access to adequate non-work-related benefits - including old-age, invalidity, maternity and family benefits - and quality services - including care, social, health, housing, education and life-long learning services - must be ensured to all people in society, including those not in employment.
- 2. Legally recognize unpaid family care work as being a particular category of work that gives status and rights to caregivers. Consider Mothers and other caregivers as "active" and give them access to social protection or implementation of a Social Protection Floor, education and training, care credits in pension calculation, etc.)
- 8. If you wish please send your written contribution to <a href="EMPL-ACCESS-SOCIAL-PROTECTION-OPC@ec.europa.eu">EMPL-ACCESS-SOCIAL-PROTECTION-OPC@ec.europa.eu</a>