



EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

#SocialRights



“A fair and more social Europe is key in shaping our Union’s future. This is what citizens rightly expect. I want the EU to stand up for the rights of its citizens in a fast-changing world. This is what the European Pillar of Social Rights is all about.”

*European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker,
Tripartite Social Summit, 18 October 2017*

WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS?

Building a **fair and more social Europe** is a key priority for this Commission. President Juncker announced the establishment of a [European Pillar of Social Rights](#) in his September 2015 State of the Union Address. Following a broad public consultation, the Pillar was presented in April 2017 by the Commission as a proposal for a joint proclamation by the EU Institutions. The Pillar was proclaimed by the Parliament, the Council and the Commission at the [Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#) on 17 November 2017.

The European Pillar of Social Rights is about delivering **new and more effective rights for citizens**. It expresses 20 principles and rights essential for fair and well-functioning labour markets and welfare systems in 21st century Europe. It is the first set of rights proclaimed by EU institutions since the Charter of Fundamental Rights. The Pillar will help us encourage a race to the top, benefiting all citizens across the EU.

The Pillar enshrines **principles and rights** in the field of:



Equal opportunities and access to the labour market

- ▶ Education, training and lifelong learning
- ▶ Gender equality
- ▶ Equal opportunities
- ▶ Active support to employment



Fair working conditions

- ▶ Secure and adaptable employment
- ▶ Wages
- ▶ Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals
- ▶ Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- ▶ Work-life balance
- ▶ Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection



Social protection and inclusion

- ▶ Childcare and support to children
- ▶ Social protection
- ▶ Unemployment benefits
- ▶ Minimum income
- ▶ Old age income and pensions
- ▶ Healthcare
- ▶ Inclusion of people with disabilities
- ▶ Long-term care
- ▶ Housing and assistance for the homeless
- ▶ Access to essential services

DELIVERING ON THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

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



Delivering on the Pillar at EU level

- ▶ To make the Pillar of Social Rights a reality on the ground, it is accompanied by a **number of legislative and non-legislative proposals**, among which a proposal to help working parents and carers manage their family life and their professional career, updates to the EU health and safety legislation, a proposal for more predictable and transparent working conditions, and a recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed.
- ▶ In addition to new proposals, delivering on the Pillar also means to ensure the take-up of rights and the **actual implementation and enforcement of legislation**. For instance, the Commission has come forward with a proposal for a European Labour Authority, which will help to enforce rules on labour mobility in a fair, simple and effective way.



Implementing the Pillar at national level

- ▶ Most of the competences and tools required to deliver on the Pillar are in the hands of local, regional and national authorities, as well as social partners and civil society. The [EU helps Member States and all actors with the implementation, by playing its supporting role to the fullest](#). The current economic context provides a window of opportunity to modernise social models and invest in people. Priorities will vary and the European Semester Process of policy coordination is an opportunity to discuss and monitor these priorities at national level.



Monitoring progress within the European Semester of economic policy coordination

- ▶ Social considerations have been mainstreamed and reinforced in the European Semester since the beginning of this Commission. **The Semester analysis and recommendations will continue to put emphasis on social considerations and follow-up on the Pillar.**
- ▶ Three new elements will help achieve this:
 - The Commission has started embedding the priorities of the Pillar in the European Semester since November 2017. Topical themes will be selected for detailed reporting on an annual basis.
 - The Commission will provide technical assistance, promote benchmarking and facilitate the exchange of good practices.
 - The new Social Scoreboard will be used to track trends and monitors performances across the EU. It will be further developed with the support of Member States.



Supporting social dialogue in the EU

- ▶ Since the start of its mandate, the Commission has promoted social dialogue as an instrument to improve EU policy- and lawmaking. The social partners have played a key role in the construction of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and will continue to do so in its implementation.



Providing financial support from the EU budget

- ▶ The European funds, in particular the European Social Fund, support the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in the Member States. For the period 2014–2020, the European Social Fund disposes of almost EUR 90 billion to support access to employment, social inclusion and education. Beyond 2020, European funding will continue to provide key investments in social and human capital across the EU.