



TOWARDS A EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS



A blue-tinted portrait of President Juncker, wearing glasses and a suit, looking slightly to the right.

**PRESIDENT JUNCKER,
STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS,
9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

"We have to step up the work for a fair and truly pan-European labour market (...).

As part of these efforts, I will want to develop a European Pillar of Social Rights, which takes account of the changing realities of Europe's societies and the world of work.

And which can serve as a compass for the renewed convergence within the euro area..."





PART OF THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA FOR A FAIRER AND DEEPER ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

- **Political Guidelines of the Commission, July 2014**
- **Five Presidents' Report on Completing Europe's EMU, June 2015**
- **Communication on Steps for Completing EMU, October 2015**
- **Preparation of a White Paper for "stage 2", Spring 2017**



Why do we need a new start for Social Europe?

- the **far-reaching consequences of the crisis**
- a **changing world of work**
- accentuating **demographic trends**
- very **different performances** within the euro area





WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE "ACQUIS" AND THE PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS?

From **step by step**
in **establishing**
the "acquis" to...

- a **holistic review**
of **present and**
future needs for
the **whole EU**
- a **greater focus**
on the **challenges**
of the **euro area**

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"...The European Pillar of Social Rights should complement what we have already jointly achieved when it comes to the protection of workers in the EU.

I will expect social partners to play a central role in this process.

I believe we do well to start with this initiative within the euro area, while allowing other EU Member States to join in if they want to do so."



DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSULTATION

- A Communication on "why", "what" and "how"
- A preliminary outline of the Pillar
- A background document on key economic, employment and social challenges
- A background document on the EU social "acquis"
- Background fiches on each domain covered by the draft Pillar

<http://ec.europa.eu/priorities/deeper-and-fairer-economic-and-monetary-union/european-pillar-social-rights>



Public consultation on the Pillar

- **Ten specific questions – on employment, social rights at work and social rights in society**
- **Reach out broadly to other institutions, civil society, social partners, NGOs, academia and Member States**
 - **On-line questionnaire**
- **European conference by end 2016; proposal for the 2017 White Paper on EMU**



Three parallel work streams

The present acquis

– what works and what does not work

The future of work

– the new digital society and working life

The draft Social Pillar

- what to do on European level and what to do on national level and what can the social partners do?**

Agenda setting - Knowledge building - Policy developing



The role of EU Social Partners and civil society

- **Dedicated hearings/strategic civil society dialogue meetings**
- **Contribution to the work streams**
- **More information on events**
<http://ec.europa.eu/social>





Form of the Pillar

The Communication:

"Ultimately, the legal nature of the Pillar itself will need to take account of the scope and legal limitations at EU and euro area levels [...] While various instruments can be considered to establish the Pillar, such as a Recommendation, the Commission will find it essential to involve Parliament and Council, as well as other EU institutions, and to gather broad support for its implementation."



TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

