



THE EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

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The European Pillar of Social Rights

1. Background
2. Process
3. EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation
4. The Social Pillar
5. Next Steps

Background

- Respond to the challenges of our societies (globalisation, digital revolution, changing work patterns, demographic developments)
- Serve as a compass to build a fairer Europe (upward convergence between the MS towards better working and living conditions)
- Become the reference framework to screen employment and social performance of participating Member States
- Drive reforms at national level
- Reinforce the 'Social Acquis' and deliver new and more effective rights for citizens

Process – 2016-2017

- European Commission public consultation (March / December 2016):
 - Gather views on what the Pillar should look like (role, scope, content) & make outline of what the Pillar should look like
 - National consultations and events in 27 MS
 - European meetings (civil society, EP): over 60 events
 - Over 200 position papers from stakeholders
 - European Commission Conference: Jan 2017 (600 participants)
- Committee of the Regions Opinion - 11 Oct 2016
- European Economic and Social Committee Opinion - 25 Jan 2017
- European Parliament: EMPL Committee (lead) – M.J. Rodrigues (opinion : FEMM committee)
 - *Resolution on the Pillar*; 19 Jan 2017 - over 1100 amendments

EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation

- EURORDIS own contribution – process:
 - Draft based on EURORDIS' previous positions & projects; Commission Expert Group on RD recommendations, EU sources, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities...
 - Social Policy Advisory Group (online call & email consultation, Nov 2016)
 - EURORDIS team Social Policy & European Affairs
- Dissemination of the contribution:
 - Members' news
 - Social Policy Advisory Group & European Public Affairs Committee
 - European Parliament: rapporteur & shadow Rapporteurs & key members EP (Disability Intergroup; other key MEPs)
- EURORDIS contribution to [European Patients' Forum](#) and [Social Platform](#) response to the Commission's consultation

EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation

<http://www.eurordis.org/sites/default/files/social-pillar-consultation.pdf>



**EURORDIS Answer to the European Commission Consultation on:
European Pillar of Social Rights**
(December 2016)

About EURORDIS
EURORDIS-Rare Diseases Europe is a unique, non-profit alliance of over 700 rare disease patient organisations from more than 60 countries that work together to improve the lives of the 30 million people living with a rare disease in Europe. By connecting patients, families and patient groups, as well as by bringing together all stakeholders and mobilising the rare disease community, EURORDIS strengthens the patient voice and shapes research, policies and patient services. More information available at <http://www.eurordis.org/>.

About the European Commission Consultation on the European Pillar of Social Rights
The *European Pillar of Social Rights* was initially presented in 2015, by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. The Pillar will identify a number of essential principles common to euro area Member States, focusing on their needs and challenges in the field of employment and social policies. The European Commission's (EC) online public consultation on the Pillar, carried out in 2016, sought to gather a wide range of stakeholders' views on the Pillar. More information available at <http://bit.ly/EuropeanPillarSocialRights>.

EURORDIS response to the European Commission Consultation
EURORDIS *Social Policy Advocacy Group* (SPAG), composed of rare disease (RD) patient representatives from across Europe, built up the organisation's views and expectations from the Pillar. The SPAG contributes to the development of EURORDIS' activities to promote holistic care for RDs and the integration of RDs into social services and social policy, providing their grassroots experience and their expert advice on the social challenges experienced by RD patients/families. More information on the SPAG available at <http://bit.ly/SocialPolicyAdvisoryGroup>.

EURORDIS' answers to EC questionnaire

On the social situation and EU social "acquis"

1. What do you see as most pressing employment and social priorities?
RDs affect 30 million EU citizens. They are often chronic, highly complex, progressive and disabling, generating specific care needs. These factors combined with lack of treatment create huge obstacles to the provision of holistic care and generate significant burden for patients/families. This is aggravated by the current economic situation in the Member States (MS): patients/carers are often not able to find an adapted job/occupation and provide for themselves, increasing families' financial burden. However, due to the therapeutic/healthcare advances, people with RDs have longer life expectancy, higher functioning and greater expectations towards an autonomous/fulfilling life.
The need to provide social services/support adapted to RDs is recognised in the *Commission Expert Group on Rare Diseases Recommendations to Support the Incorporation of RDs into social services and policies*" (2016), directed to the Member States and the EC.



EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation - Backbone

- People living with a rare disease and their carers are willing and able to contribute to society if adequately supported
- People with complex diseases are left out of the picture -> invisibility
- Need for a life long approach
- Recognition of women-carers issue
- Civil society needs to be involved in the design and implementation of social policies & services
- Awareness of rare diseases & complex conditions is key
- Work-place flexibility is needed for people with rare diseases & carers

EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation – Key messages

- Adapted, flexible and non-discriminatory employment and adequate services for patients & carers
- Adapted, non-discriminatory schooling for children with complex conditions
- Adaptation of MS' functioning/disability assessment systems to comprise a larger concept of “social disability”
- Accessible goods, services and build environment
- Integrated care - coordination between health, social and financial policies; holistic pathways; case management and one-stop-shop services
- Development of indicators on access to health and social services for people with chronic conditions & carers

EURORDIS contribution to EC consultation

- Skills/education/life-long learning
- Flexible and secure labour contracts
- Secure professional transitions
- Active support for employment
- Gender equality and work/life balance
- Equal opportunities
- Health and safety at work
- Social dialogue and involvement of workers
- Integrated social benefits and services
- Healthcare and sickness benefits
- Pensions
- Disability benefits
- Long-term care
- Childcare
- Housing

Social Pillar – Presentation

Marianne Thyssen @mariannythyssen · Apr 27
 With European Pillar of #SocialRights we want to give answers to social challenges of 21st century #EUdialogues



EU Social @EU_Social · Apr 26
 "The Pillar of #SocialRights is more than words, words, words."
 @mariannythyssen's statement at #EPPlenary



Valdis Dombrovskis @vDombrovskis · 15h
 At the EMPL Committee for the structured dialogue on EC Work Programme 2017, focus-European Pillar of #SocialRights: bit.ly/2qAODJA



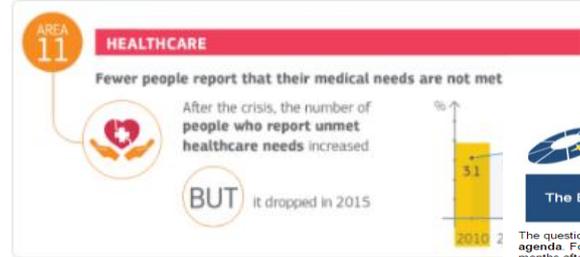
EU Justice @EU_Justice · Apr 26
 New proposal on work-life balance - what will it improve? #SocialRights
 europa.eu/rapid/press-re...

	CURRENT EU LAW	IMPACT OF THE PROPOSAL
Paternity Leave	No minimum standards for paternity leave at EU-level.	All working fathers will be able to take days of paternity leave around the birth of their child. Paternity leave will be compensated of sick pay.
Parental Leave	At least 4 months per parent, out of which one month is non-transferable between parents. Parents can take leave until their child is 8 years old.	At least 4 months per parent that can be taken between parents. Parents can take leave in flexible for part-time, in a piecemeal way). Parents can take leave until their child is 8 years old.
Carers' Leave	No minimum standards for carers at EU-level (except "force majeure" allowing to take short time off for imperative and unexpected family reasons). No minimum standards at EU level on the length of the leave nor.	All workers will have the right to 5 days leave per year to take care of serious relatives. Carers' leave will be compensated at sick pay.

Social Platform @social_platform · Apr 26
 PRESS RELEASE: Delivering Social Europe – promising signs in the European Pillar of Social Rights bit.ly/2oLmH0E #SocialRights



EU Health @EU_Health · Apr 26
 The European Pillar of #SocialRights is accompanied by a 's monitoring 12 areas in #EU countries europa.eu/IQW97qt



European Social Network

The European Pillar of Social Rights: from principle to action

The question is the extent to which these provisions relate to a legislative or a benchmarking agenda. For instance, will young people be able to sue their governments if they do not find a job four months after being unemployed? Will there be indicators on the types of jobs young people are getting? If they are insecure or low paid, employment indicators may go up but income convergence will not be achieved. As things stand now, the Pillar remains a set of principles rather than an actual obligation to deliver or guarantee specific rights.

Social Pillar – Presentation

- 20 key principles and rights
- 3 categories : equal opportunities and access to the labour market, fair working conditions, social protection & inclusion
- Accompanied by legislative and non-legislative initiatives (work-life balance of parents and carers, information of workers, access to social protection, working time)
- Establishment of a 'scoreboard' to track trends and progress in selected areas (to feed the European Semester)
- Commission Recommendation for the Members States
- Joint Proclamation by the EP, Council and Commission

Social Pillar – Our first concerns

- Invisibility of rare diseases and other chronic and complex conditions
- Integrated care?
- Euro zone
- Binding?
- Implementation?

Social Pillar – What next?

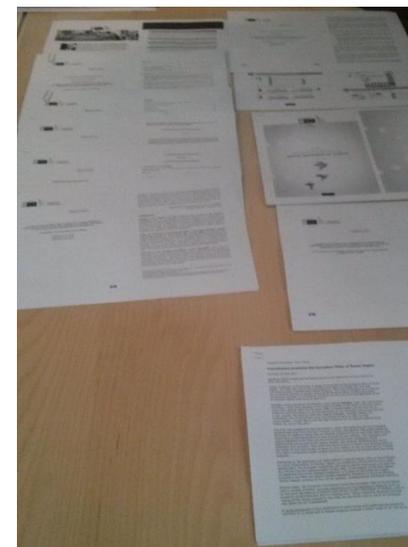
- Commission Recommendation for the Members States : effective as of 26 April 2017
- Joint Proclamation by the EP, Council and Commission : Commission will enter into discussions with EP & Council towards broad political support and endorsement of the Pillar

Social Pillar – What next ?

- We need to work at European and National level:
 - With policy makers
 - With other NGOs
- New webinar: analysis of released documents in comparison with our contribution & next steps
- Tool kit: ideas to support implementation at national level and ensure RD needs are addressed
- CNA meeting October (Paris)

Social Pillar – Key documents

- [Commission communication on the European Pillar of social rights](#)
- [Commission recommendation establishing the European Pillar of social rights](#)
- [Proposal for an interinstitutional proclamation endorsing the European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
- [Staff working document: explanatory fiches on each principle](#)
- [Staff working document: Social Scoreboard](#)
- [Staff working document: summary report on the public consultation](#)
- [Factsheet on European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
- [Q & A on European Pillar of Social Rights](#)
- [Factsheet on social scoreboard](#)



Questions?

Discussion...



Thank you

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