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AEIP calls for the full respect of platform workers' right to social protection

On 11 March 2024 the Employment and Social affairs ministers will seek to approve the provisional agreement between the Council and the European Parliament on new rules aimed at improving conditions for platform workers. The main objectives of the proposal for a [Platform work Directive](#) are to enhance the working conditions and social rights of people working through digital labour platforms. The European Association of Paritarian Institutions (AEIP) welcomes this initiative and calls for the full respect of platform workers' right to social protection.

AEIP represents more than 1200 social protection providers such as pension and healthcare funds from 11 European countries, which manage more than 1300 billion assets for more than 80 million European citizens.

Regardless of the type and duration of employment, workers and the self-employed have the right to adequate social protection

AEIP advocates for policies and actions that increase access to effective and adequate social protection, reduce precariousness and fight in-work poverty. This collective commitment to social protection for all workers, including platform workers, underscores the need to ensure formal and effective coverage, adequacy, and transparency of social protection systems that address the diverse needs of today's labour market and new forms of employment. Social partner organisations such as paritarian institutions of social protection help to create a more inclusive and equitable labour market that benefits workers and employers alike by providing retirement, healthcare, or unemployment benefits under conditions defined by individual or collective employment agreements. This approach aligns with the European Pillar of Social Rights' (EPSR) focus on ensuring better legislation and implementation of social rights to address current and future challenges.

We believe that a comprehensive Platform work Directive needs to ensure social protection for platform workers, recognise the important role of social partners, promote fairness in the labour market and increase transparency on the use of algorithm systems in the workplace.

Employment status misclassification and bogus self-employment threaten labour and social security rights

The proposal by the European Commission for the Directive has highlighted the issue of employment status misclassification, particularly concerning individuals working through digital labour platforms.

These workers are especially likely to experience poor working conditions and inadequate access to social protection. We stress the importance of tackling the risk of misclassification and bogus self-employment. These issues not only undermine the labour and social security rights of individuals but also lead to lost contributions to national social security systems and occupational social protection schemes, jeopardize the collective bargaining process and foster unfair competition.

The European Pillar of Social Rights must be the compass for the European social agenda

EPSR's principle 5 states that regardless of the type and duration of the employment relationship, workers have the right to fair and equal treatment regarding working conditions and access to social protection. Additionally, principle 12 mentions that all workers, and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed have, the right to adequate social protection. The provisional agreement reached between the European Parliament and the Council, in December 2023, marks a significant advancement in safeguarding platform workers' right to social protection and is a positive step toward implementing the EPSR.

With this in mind, we call on the EU co-legislators to build upon their provisional agreement. Failure to reach an agreement would represent a missed opportunity for social Europe. This is crucial for improving the well-being and social protection of all workers and promoting more resilient economic structures in light of the evolving world of work.

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AEIP Disclaimer

AEIP represents the European Paritarian Institutions of Social Protection in Brussels since 1997. The association gathers 29 leading large and medium-sized social protection providers, which are managed on the basis of joint governance and equal representation by both employees and employers' organizations (the social partners) in 12 EU Member States.

AEIP represents its members' values and interests at the level of both European and international institutions. In particular, AEIP - through its working groups - deals with EU coordinated pension schemes and pension funds, healthcare, unemployment, provident and paid-holiday schemes.

Owing to the quality of its members and to the delegation of powers conferred to its Board, AEIP aims at becoming the leading body for the promotion of balanced paritarian social protection systems in Europe. AEIP promotes and develops programs and orientations aiming at the sustainability of paritarian social protection systems at local level taking into account the national specificities aiming at ensuring social cohesion in Europe.

Based thereon, AEIP prepares recommendations, proposes local programs and influences European decisions to safeguard and promote the interests of its members. AEIP thinks ahead and anticipate modern paritarian social protection systems that take into account changing economic and societal pattern. It furthermore seeks to find a new balance between and across generations.

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