

The European Pillar of Social Rights:

Social partners underline 9 principles

An industriAll Europe & Ceemet joint position

Brussels, December 12th 2018 - The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) has been proclaimed by the 28 EU leaders and the EU institutions in Gothenburg on 17th November 2017.

The Pillar, consists of 20 key principles structured into 3 categories:

- 1) equal opportunities & access to the labour market;
- 2) fair working conditions;
- 3) social protection & inclusion.

Due to its non-binding nature, delivering on the principles of the Pillar is primarily a responsibility of national governments, of public authorities and of Social Partners at all levels¹.

PROSPERITY BY BOOSTING INVESTMENT, INNOVATION & TRAINING

Europe should remain a place of political and economic stability with a social market economy that combines economic freedoms, free movement of people and welfare states designed to deliver social protection. However, the European Union still faces many challenges, such as high levels of unemployment which affects youth in particular, inequalities between people but also countries and regions as well as the rise of nationalistic and populist movements. Europe should endeavour to be even more inclusive and provide opportunities for all. Sustainable growth is key to improving social cohesion.

“Ceemet and industriAll Europe confirm that they are ready to contribute to the debate on the Pillar principles through their social dialogue at all levels, in line with national conditions and traditions.”

Prosperity for all can only be achieved if private and public investment are boosted, innovation supported, training and education uphold and if more and better jobs are created. The transition to a low carbon and digital economy should also be managed successfully. Furthermore, maintaining and extending to all the highly developed social systems requires that the EU provide the adequate conditions for supporting a robust and internationally competitive economy.

In particular, a highly competitive Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industry (MET) is crucial to maintain Europe’s high social standards and to create quality jobs.

¹ Commission Communication establishing a EPSR, COM(2017) 250 final

9 PRINCIPLES THAT MATTER

Contributing to the debate on the EPSR and in order to provide answers to the current challenges, industriAll Europe and Ceemet underline following principles:

1. the integration of the Pillar objectives into the European Semester of Policy Coordination must always be done taking into account the diverse needs of national labour markets and fully respecting social partners autonomy and the role of social dialogue, specifically on issues such as wage setting, which we see is not adhered to in the revised employment guidelines. In this way, we will improve economic and social cohesion and pave the way for sustainable growth and social progress in the Member States and throughout the European Union.
2. Striving for more ambitious social standards presupposes increased efforts in both private and public investment in order to improve the competitiveness of industry, support growth and employment in the future. This is essential in the MET sectors, if we are to reverse the trends towards a declining share of the industry in the economy as a whole. This has to be supported by stronger financial instruments both at national and European levels.
3. Training, retraining and lifelong-learning are key to facilitate people's integration into the labour market. They ensure its well-functioning and are also necessary to support the competitiveness of the European economy. Investment in skills must be enhanced in the MET industries if the sector wants to successfully address the challenge of digitalisation. Social partners have a crucial role to play in ensuring that adequate efforts in upgrading skills for all are ramped up. Upgrading and retraining people are a major challenge ahead of us if we want to deliver inclusive growth and social cohesion. However, this also depends of the capacity of labour markets to promote quality and stable employment.
4. Faced with the challenge of the transformation of the world of work, social protection must be adapted to ensure adequate protection for all workers. Furthermore, existing legislations must be better enforced.
5. Ceemet and industriAll Europe fully support the objective of increasing the participation of women in the labour market, as well as ensuring equality between men and women with regards to labour market opportunities and equal treatment at work. Increased participation of women in the labour markets is crucial to strengthen well-functioning labour markets. The European MET industries have put in place several initiatives at regional and national level to make the MET industries more attractive to women.
6. Access to and the quality of childcare and elderly care facilities should also be improved, since the shortage of these facilities, amongst others, hinders, the participation of women into the labour market.
7. A well-functioning social dialogue at all levels is essential to address working life and to find common and balanced solutions to up-coming challenges such as the increased digitalisation, the transformation of the world of work or the ageing of the population.
8. Collective bargaining between strong, representative, mandated and autonomous social partners is a tool to improve wages and working conditions and to contribute to productivity increase in Europe as well as to help to speed up European recovery and stabilise the economy.
9. IndustriAll Europe and Ceemet are committed to support the strengthening of collective bargaining systems in Europe and reject any political interference, including on wage setting, which leads to the forced and imposed undermining of collective bargaining systems.

The MET Social Partners strongly believe in a European Union which delivers economic prosperity, growth and jobs based on a strong competitive industry that can sustain Europe's high social standards.

ABOUT

[Ceemet](#)

The **Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based industries** is the European employers' organisation representing the interests of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries. Through its national member organisations it represents 200 000 companies across Europe. The vast majority of them are SMEs, providing over 35 million jobs of direct and indirect employment.



@CEEMET

secretariat@ceemet.org

Tel: + 32 2 706 84 65

www.ceemet.org

Bld. Auguste Reyers Ln 80
1030 Brussels
Belgium

[industriAll European Trade Union](#)

industriAll European Trade Union is the voice of 7 million working men and women across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors across Europe. We aim to protect and advance the rights of the workers.



@industriAll_EU

info@industriAll-europe.eu

Tel: +32 2 226 00 50

www.industriAll-europe.eu

Boulevard du Roi Albert II 5 (bte 10)
1210 Brussels
Belgium