

Programme

# Changing working conditions in Europe: Moving towards better work

Overview report of Eurofound's sixth European Working  
Conditions Survey

Joint conference organised by Eurofound in cooperation with  
the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and  
Social Affairs (EMPL)

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Date: 17 November 2016

Time: 9.00–18.00

Venue: Room JAN 2Q2, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, 1047 Brussels,  
Belgium

Languages: All languages

## Programme – Thursday 17 November 2016

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**08.00** Registration

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**09.00–09.30** **Welcome and opening**

**Thomas Händel**, MEP, (GUE/NGL Group, DE), Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, European Parliament  
**Juan Menéndez-Valdés**, Director, Eurofound

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**09.30–10.00** **Working in Europe: The story that Eurofound's sixth pan-European Working Conditions Survey can tell**

**Chair: Juan Menéndez-Valdés**, Director, Eurofound  
**Agnès Parent-Thirion**, Senior Programme Manager, Working Conditions and Industrial Relations, Eurofound

*This session will present key features of the seven dimensions that constitute job quality: a safe physical environment, a secure social environment, good quality earnings, working time quality, employment prospects, skills use and autonomy and an acceptable level of work intensity. It will describe how these job quality dimensions fit into five clusters, with some workers in jobs with mostly positive features of job quality, one other in jobs that have all the negative features and three groups which present differentiated profiles – revealing that there is much more to job quality than job polarisation.*

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**10.00–12.30** **Session 1: Job quality – Challenges and opportunities**

**Chair: Thomas Händel**, MEP (GUE/NGL Group, DE), Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

**Michel Servoz**, Director-General, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

**Luca Visentini**, General Secretary, ETUC

**Renate Hornung Draus**, Vice-Chair, Social Affairs Committee, BusinessEurope

**David Foden**, Head of Unit, Working Conditions and Industrial Relations, Eurofound

**Claude Rolin**, MEP (EPP Group, BE)

**Georgi Pirinski**, MEP (S&D Group, BG)

**Commentators to respond from the floor:**

**Hervé Garnier**, National Secretary, CFDT (French Democratic Confederation of Labour)

**Antti Närhinen**, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment (FI)

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**12.30–14.30** **Lunch**

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**14.30–16.00**      **Session 2: Combining work with non-working life – Sustainable work over the life course**

**Chair: Marian Harkin**, MEP (ALDE Group, IE)  
**Greet Vermeylen**, Senior Programme Manager, Working Conditions and Industrial Relations, Eurofound

*This session will look at policies and workplace practices that adapt work, work organisation and the workplace to the specific needs of workers of different ages and abilities and/or promote work–life balance. It will focus on measures that support and enable workers to reconcile their different roles and needs throughout their life stages.*

**Ole Christensen**, MEP (S&D Group, DK)

**Christa Sedlatschek**, Director, European Agency for Health and Safety at Work (EU-OSHA)

**Tatjana Ždanoka**, MEP (Greens/EFA Group, LV)

**Johan ten Geuzendam**, Adviser Equal Rights, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

**Commentators to respond from the floor:**

**Vladimíra Drbalová**, Vice-Chair, Labour Market Observatory, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

**Paola Panzeri**, Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer, COFACE – Families Europe

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**16.00–17.30**      **Session 3: Building a global agenda for working life – The importance of evidence-based research**

**Chair: Herman Fonck**, Chair, Eurofound Governing Board

*This session will examine and explore the diverse possibilities of a global agenda for working life for the coming decades, building on evidence gathered across the world on job quality. Will or should Europe develop its own vision of work? How related, if at all, will this be to other policy agendas?*

**Tom Bevers**, Chair, EU Employment Committee (EMCO)

**Manuela Tomei**, Director, Conditions of Work and Equality Department, ILO

**Stefano Scarpetta**, Director, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

**Marita Ulvskog**, MEP (S&D Group, SE), Vice-President of the EMPL Committee, European Parliament

**Barbara Gerstenberger**, Coordinator Directorate, Eurofound

**Questions and Answers**

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**17.30–18.00**      **Closing remarks**

**Erika Mezger**, Deputy Director, Eurofound

**Marita Ulvskog**, MEP, Vice-President of the EMPL Committee, European Parliament

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**18.00**              **End of conference**

## Background

In a context of high unemployment and the ongoing debate about the challenges, impact and possible responses to digitalisation in Europe, coupled with growing inequalities and the underutilisation of human capital, it is important to share evidence on how people work and get on at work. With this in mind, Eurofound's sixth European Working Conditions Survey provides fresh evidence to illuminate job quality and the working lives of Europeans at work and beyond.

In particular, the survey maps changes in work over time and provides the first comprehensive image of job quality in Europe since the Great Recession. This latest edition of the survey covers 35 European countries (EU-28 and Norway, Switzerland, Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey) and examines aspects ranging from work-related physical and psychosocial risks, working time and work organisation to developing skills at work and lifelong learning, work–life balance, work and gender, and health and well-being.

Against the background of the diverse picture of Europe at work, the survey underlines the complex reality with which Europe's policymakers are confronted as they seek to build a fair and competitive Europe. Work is a central activity in Europe and fundamental to the achievement of the EU's goals for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as part of a highly competitive social market economy – aiming towards full employment and social progress, a high level of social protection and the improvement of the quality of the working environment.

During this conference, European policy actors will evaluate EU policy responses to job quality challenges by building on a description of the seven dimensions of job quality and assessing how European workers fare in terms of job quality. Job quality is a key element in sustainable work over the life course and this will be examined in the second session, with particular attention to work and care over the life course as well as to ageing at work. Finally, the third session will go beyond the European borders to examine what a global agenda on working life over the coming decades could look like.

The conference is also particularly timely in light of the European Commission's recent proposal for a European pillar of social rights which has launched a rich debate among policymakers and to which this conference hopes to contribute.

### **Find out what it is like to work in Europe**

- For more information on the sixth European Working Conditions Survey, including a link to a comprehensive data visualisation tool, go to <http://bit.ly/6EWCS2015>
- Download the sixth European Working Conditions Survey – Overview report – at <http://bit.ly/6EWCSReport>
- Join the conversation on Twitter #6EWCS