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**Sixth meeting of the European Labour Authority
Working Group on inspections**

15 March 2021

Summary of the deliberations

The experts appointed by the ELA Management Board Members met in a video conference on 15 March 2021 for the sixth meeting of the ELA Working Group on inspections. Mr Cosmin Boiangiu, ELA Executive Director, welcomed the members and alternates and gave a brief introduction.

The aim of the meeting was to provide updates from the Commission, to discuss ELA's Action Plan on seasonal workers with particular focus on the enforcement perspective of it, to update the members on the state of play of ELA's activities in the road transport sector, on possible activities and calendar of the Working Group meetings in 2021 and on capacity building activities for this year.

Introduction by the Executive Director of ELA

The Executive Director introduced himself to the Working Group and informed about the ELA priorities for 2021, including the build-up phase of the Authority, and highlighted the strong focus on identifying COVID-19's impact on labour mobility, the main challenges that Member States encounter and the actions they have taken. He pointed out that the Action Plan on seasonal workers covers initiatives drawing from the entire 'toolbox' of ELA, including EURES and contribution of the Undeclared Work Platform. To be effective and operational, ELA will build on and promote national initiatives targeting seasonal workers, and support the establishment of networks and cooperation between originating and destination countries. In reply to the question in relation to the role of National Liaison Officers (NLOs), the Executive Director emphasized the importance of NLOs' contribution to the operational activities of ELA as well as building and promoting cooperation and information exchange between Member States.

Updates from the Commission

The European Commission updated the Working Group on its initiatives, including on the Action Plan for the European Pillar on Social Rights, which was recently presented, with the focus on a Social Europe and fair mobility as a key component. On fair mobility agenda, the Commission will work with ELA on the proper implementation and enforcement of EU labour mobility rules, on capacity building for information and labour inspections at national level, and on the protection of mobile workers, including seasonal workers. The Commission also informed about the seminar of the Platform tackling undeclared work on trends and good practices in relation to seasonal workers, which took place on 16 March 2021.

Thematic focus: Action Plan on seasonal workers

ELA presented the Action Plan on seasonal workers explaining in detail its two strands – the awareness raising campaign (the objectives, key messages, target groups and operating

principles and roadmap) and support to enforcement of labour mobility acquis (cross-border concerted and joint inspections and tackling undeclared work). ELA will offer a number of tools and communication materials to support national awareness raising campaigns aiming at informing workers about rights and obligations as well as sensitising and supporting employers to respect national labour and social rules on cross-border seasonal work.

As regards the enforcement pillar, the Action Plan on seasonal workers would contribute to the objective agreed in the Work Programme 2021 in relation to the participation of Member States in cross-border enforcement actions. ELA has already engaged in dialogue with Member States' competent authorities to encourage their participation in cross-border inspections. Based on analyses of labour mobility flows, ELA sent letters to 15 Member States inviting them to consider launching/participating in cross-border inspection. To facilitate this endeavour, ELA will offer its support in relation to coordination of activities and targeted financial, logistic as well as capacity building and methodological assistance. ELA reiterated that all Member States are encouraged to participate in the activities under the Action Plan. It also emphasised the integrated approach of implementation of both strands of the Action Plan and the importance of cooperation with other stakeholders at national and EU level throughout the implementation of the plan.

During the discussion, a number of Member States welcomed the Action plan and expressed their interest to participate in cross-border enforcement actions tackling irregularities often involving temporary work agencies mainly in the agri-food and construction sectors. Need for support in relation to translation/interpretation, operational guidance was underlined. Some countries have already identified specific cases and partner countries for cross-border action. ELA, with the help of NLOs, will accompany national authorities in the preparation and execution of planned inspections.

ELA activities in the road transport sector: state of play

ELA explained its competence covering social aspects of the road transport legislation (Mobility Package I) and presented the state of play of ELA activities in the sector. This included a number of workshops and seminars with stakeholders exploring possibilities for future cooperation. Need to ensure proper cooperation of national transport and labour authorities in the enforcement of road transport acquis was underlined at the meeting.

Activities of the Working Group on inspections in 2021

In the coming months, ELA plans three other Working Group meetings (tentative dates: 10 May, 6 July and 6 October). A number of topics will be addressed at these meetings, such as follow-up activities under the Action Plan and in the road transport sector, cooperation with other EU agencies and possible refinement of ELA tools and procedures.

ELA trainings for 2021 and trainings at national level

The future ELA's Capacity Building Centre will provide training activities horizontally across ELA tasks. The already developed materials related to the trainings in November 2020 and January 2021 ("train the trainer" approach) are accessible online. ELA encouraged organising similar trainings at national level to convey the knowledge acquired. To facilitate this task, ELA invited to submit requests for translations of the presentations of the already delivered trainings by the end of March. As regards future trainings, more peer learning type of activities was called for at the meeting.

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The chair reminded about the call for SNEs and informed that the deadline had been extended until the end of March.