



European Platform tackling undeclared work

Outputs of the sixth plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work 12-13 March 2019, Brussels

12 March 2019 – Thematic discussion on ‘Tackling letterbox companies in the EU’
Separate report to follow.

13 March 2019 – Ordinary Plenary meeting

ITEM 1 and 2: Opening remarks and adoption of outputs from Plenary meeting 18-19
October 2018

The agenda was adopted.

The draft outputs of the last Plenary session were adopted. The draft report on ‘Tackling under-declared employment in the EU’ was adopted pending final changes. Both documents will be published on the website of the Platform.

ITEM 3: Reporting from thematic discussions on ‘Tackling letterbox companies in the
EU’

Two rapporteurs presented the discussions at the workshops - Workshop 1 on ‘national approaches’ and Workshop 2 on ‘developing effective cooperation within and across countries’. The findings and main conclusions of the thematic discussions will be presented in the separate report indicated above.

ITEM 4: Update on the European Labour Authority (ELA)

The Chair provided some background on the ELA and gave an update on the current legislative process. The Council and European Parliament concluded their negotiations and should finalise the legislative process by June 2019. The Platform should be integrated into the ELA as a permanent working group. For 2019-2020, the work programme will be implemented as decided, unless amendments are proposed later this year.

ITEM 5: Cross-border cooperation/joint inspections

The results from the survey on good practices of cross-border cooperation/inspections were presented. Findings included that most joint inspections are undertaken with neighbouring countries; that their number is relatively low. The main challenges include data protection/exchange of information, differences in legislation, resources and language barriers.

The Platform Secretariat reported on the recent Thematic Review Workshop on Cross-border Concerted and Joint Inspections held in Lisbon. Next steps are a learning resource, toolkit and follow-up visit.

ITEM 6: Data exchange and data protection

Hans Van Weeren, NL, leader of the working group 'developing an IMI module for UDW/data sources and tools for inspectors', provided an update. Proposals that could feed a specific UDW IMI module will be presented to the October 2019 Plenary. The next meeting in May will also focus on data protection and data sources.

ITEM 7: Visibility/information campaign

Renārs Lūsis, LV, leader of the working group 'visibility and common information campaign' provided an update on the group's work and presented four options for a common information campaign. There was an agreement to further elaborate option 1 (a pan-European social media campaign underpinned by joint actions to prevent and tackle UDW) at the visibility seminar on 12 June in Brussels.

ITEM 8: Report from seminar 'Tackling undeclared work in the agricultural sector'

Feedback was provided on the seminar and learning resource. Recommendations included the need to develop effective cooperation; use a mix of deterrence measures with more effective inspections combined with incentives to be declared; the need to build trust and tackle structural issues.

Comments on the learning resource were requested within one week, prior to publication on the Platform's webpage.

ITEM 9: Decision on sector mix for invitations of social partners' organisations to be granted observer status

Business Europe's proposal to grant the World Employment Confederation-Europe observer status was accepted.

ITEM 10: Information points

10a: Awarded projects following call for proposals tackling undeclared work 2018

- There were presentations from CY, NO (in replacement of SE), EFBWW/FIEC.

10b: PILOT-PROJECT Promotion of domestic worker cooperatives and service voucher schemes

- EFFAT and EASPD presented the pilot project.

10c: Information points from the Platform Secretariat

- Mutual Assistance Projects: there is one slot remaining for 2019 and two for 2020.
- Staff visits are available on a first come first served basis. Poland presented their experiences of a recent staff visit to France.
- The Annual Platform survey was launched on 11 March, to gather input on tackling undeclared work in the collaborative economy and bogus self-employment; data exchange and data protection; cross-border sanctions. Platform members and observers were asked to contribute by 10 May.
- Visibility seminar to further develop the common information campaign – to take place on 12 June in Brussels.
- Seminar 'Preventative approaches to tackle undeclared work, focusing upon notification letters and tax rebates' – to take place on 16 May in Brussels.
- Thematic Review Workshop on 'Future Role and Competence Profile of Labour Inspectorates' – to take place on 26-27 June in Vilnius.

11d: Toolkits

- The toolkits 'Risk Assessments for more efficient inspections as means to tackle undeclared work' (Document 11) and 'Communicating effectively' (Document 12) were both accepted and will be published on the Platform's webpages.

- Minor changes and an update were requested from DK and BG on the toolkit 'Information tools and approaches to reach out to workers and companies in the fight against undeclared work' (Document 10).

ITEM 11: Thematic discussions – use of key performance indicators in enforcement authorities

There were presentations from ES, IE, LV and the NL on the different approaches used to measure performance of labour inspectorates in tackling UDW. Key performance indicators included those for preventative and deterrence measures. This key topic could be revisited in future meetings.

AOB

The date of the next Plenary meeting is 24-25 October 2019, Brussels.
