



European Platform tackling undeclared work

Outputs of the seventh plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work 24-25 October 2019, Brussels

24 October 2019 – Thematic discussion on ‘Data protection and data exchange’

Separate report to follow.

25 October 2019 – Ordinary Plenary meeting

ITEM 1 and 2: Opening remarks and adoption of outputs from Plenary meeting 12-13 March 2019

The agenda was adopted.

The draft outputs of the last Plenary session were adopted. The draft report on ‘Tackling letterbox companies in the EU’ was adopted following comments from DE, HU and ETUC. The outputs and the report will be published on the website of the Platform.

ITEM 3: Reporting from thematic discussions on ‘Data protection and data exchange’

Two rapporteurs presented the discussions at the workshops - Workshop 1 on ‘Data exchange for tackling cross-border undeclared work: tools, practices and way forward’ and Workshop 2 on ‘Addressing data protection challenges: uncovering the myths’. 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 commented that the first management board meeting of ELA took place the week before. Its work programme and budget for 2019 has been adopted. The management board suggested that the priorities for 2020 should be: providing information to the public; and joint and concerted inspections. The intention is that the Platform will be transferred as a working group into ELA by 2021, which will be chaired by an ELA representative. The Platform activities will continue in the meantime. Jordi Curell is the interim executive director pending the recruitment of the executive director.

ITEM 5: Data exchange and data protection

Hans van Weeren, NL, leader of the working group on ‘developing an IMI module for UDW/data sources and tools for inspectors’ presented the outcome of the working group. The report of this working group provides concrete proposals for questions for inclusion in a UDW module within the IMI system. Plenary agreed to the report; finetuning of questions can take place at a later stage. It will be published and submitted to ELA for follow-up.

ITEM 6: Visibility / Information campaign

Renārs Lūsis, LV, leader of the working group ‘visibility and common information campaign’ provided an update on the concept and tools being developed. A Commission representative provided an update on the results of a small-scale test among the public of

the proposed social media messages, slogans and hashtags. Following lively discussion and a survey of opinion, it was agreed that the EU social media campaign hashtag would be #EU4FairWork with a supporting package of two 'positive message' slogans: 'Earn. Declare. Benefit' and 'Fair work, fair play'. The EU hashtag should not be translated due to the need to monitor and evaluate its usage but members and observers are encouraged to use this alongside their own relevant hashtags. The slogans will be translated or adapted into national languages as members and observers see fit; there is the flexibility to develop alternatives to suit national or organisational priorities and sensitivities. Member States and social partners are encouraged to work together to further develop at national level their own actions to coincide with the EU social media campaign, with a particular focus on activities during the agreed Week of Action (16-20 March 2020). The campaign concept was endorsed with further fine-tuning of chapter 6 target groups at the campaign seminar on 10 December 2019. It was further agreed that self-employment will be removed from the messaging.

ITEM 7: Eurobarometer survey on undeclared work

A representative of Kantar presented an overview of the forthcoming Eurobarometer public opinion survey on undeclared work. High level findings indicated there has been no significant change in the level of undeclared work, but the perceived risk of being caught is much higher. The trust in the institutions responsible for tackling undeclared work is comparable to the trust in the legal system. The full results are expected in February 2020.

ITEM 8: Platform Work Programme: implementation and outlook

Commission representatives presented the outcomes of the 2019 satisfaction survey and the updated 2020 work programme including proposed adjustments to the scheduling and tasks. The work programme 2020 was endorsed and the proposals for the working group leaders for the two working groups in 2020 were agreed. Platform members are encouraged to provide comments on the draft Commission report on the Implementation of Decision (EU) 2016/344 establishing the Platform - this will be sent in November with comments requested within 2 weeks.

ITEM 9: Information points and endorsement of Platform documents

A Commission representative provided an update on staff visits and mutual assistance projects undertaken in 2019. Platform members from IE, BG and LT provided short inspiring updates from their participation in these activities. Ruslan Stefanov, external expert, provided an update on the Platform study on cross border cooperation and the toolkit on concerted and joint inspections. Commission representatives also presented the results of: the 2019 Platform survey on key themes of work; a PowerPoint template and output report leaflet for Platform members to disseminate freely; and the outcomes of the thematic review workshop on the future role and competence profiles of labour inspectorates. All reports were endorsed.

ITEM 10: Thematic discussion – European Social Fund support to tackling undeclared work

Platform members from BG, CY, LV and HU presented inspirational examples of how ESF funding has been used to provide support to tackle undeclared work in their countries.

AOB - The next Plenary meeting dates are 25-26 March and 14-15 October 2020.
