



European Platform tackling undeclared work

Outputs of the tenth plenary meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work 24-25 March 2021, virtual meeting

24 March 2021 – Thematic discussion on 'Third country migration and undeclared work'
Separate report to follow.

25 March 2021 – Ordinary Plenary meeting

ITEM 1: Opening remarks by Chair of Platform and reporting from thematic discussion 'Third country migration and undeclared work'

The Chair thanked the Platform representatives for their continued commitment during a challenging year. The Chair noted that the formal transition of the Platform to ELA is presumably scheduled for 26 May 2021 and introduced ELA's new Executive Director, Cosmin Boiangiu. The agenda was adopted.

A thematic expert presented the summary findings from the presentations and discussions from the thematic day. The floor was opened for additional discussion of the conclusions. The findings and conclusions will be presented in the separate report indicated above.

ITEM 2: Adoption of outputs from Plenary 4-5 October 2020

The minutes and outputs from the last Plenary meeting were adopted and will be published on the website of the Platform.

ITEM 3: Platform transition to ELA

The Chair introduced a proposal for Platform Governance, namely to leave the position of the second Co-Chair open¹ until the Platform's transition to ELA. Following a discussion on the Co-Chairs' role during the transition, the Chair confirmed that a replacement Co-Chair would be a temporary appointment only and come to an end once the formal transition takes place. The Chair's proposal was supported by the Platform. The Chair thanked Renārs Lūsis for his contribution as Co-Chair.

Regarding the establishment of the Platform as a permanent Working Group within ELA, the Chair recalled that a two-step approach will be applied. The Decision establishing the Platform as a permanent Working Group was adopted by the ELA Management Board on 9 March and will take effect presumably on 26 May, when ELA reaches financial autonomy. Rules of Procedure will be adopted by the ELA Management Board in a second stage.

ELA Executive Director Cosmin Boiangiu provided additional details on the transition. He stated that the priority for ELA will be to ensure smooth transition and business continuity of the Platform. The focus will also be to enhance synergies with the work of ELA. The rules of procedure for the Platform will be proposed to the ELA Management Board for adoption at its next meeting on 25 May. ELA will closely consider suggestions and recommendations

¹ The second Co-Chair position has been vacant since Luísa Guimarães, PT, left the role in January 2021.

made in the Platform Working Group's report on the transition (see below). Coherence with the broader ELA governance of working groups will also be taken into account. The Executive Director confirmed that the current governance arrangements of two Co-Chairs, and a senior and alternate representative nominated to the Platform will be retained. ELA Management Board members and observers are invited to confirm the current representatives or to appoint new representatives by 9 May. A webinar will take place later in the spring to explain more about ELA's role, governance and work programme.

The report from the Platform Working Group 'Enhancing synergies with the ELA Work Programme and working methods' was endorsed. It will be sent to the ELA Executive Director and the Chair of the ELA Management Board.

ITEM 4: Information and communication

The ELA Executive Director presented the proposal for a Platform campaign on seasonal workers, following on from the #EU4FairWork campaign. It aims to link in with the broader ELA Action Plan on Seasonal Workers. Synergies between the ELA awareness-raising campaign and the Platform campaign should be sought. Discussion took place on ensuring a clear target group for the Platform campaign, tailored strategies and channels, as well as the need for synergies. The Platform endorsed the proposal.

A Platform working group will be established on the topic, with two meetings before summer foreseen - the first will take place on 26 April. The Working Group mandate was endorsed. A call for expression of interest to join the working group will be sent following the plenary meeting. The Chair invited a volunteer for the working group leader: as no one expressed interest during the session, a call for expression of interest for a working group leader will also be sent.

ITEM 5: Thematic discussion – Internal and external reorganisation and adaptations measures within enforcement authorities in the COVID 19 context

Presentations from BE and SE provided an insight into the changes, challenges and opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic including teleworking, inspections, datamining and remote controls. A poll highlighted these challenges exist across Member States. Continuing this topic, Platform representatives are invited to participate at the upcoming webinar on counteracting abuse of short-term financial support schemes on 29 April. The October plenary meeting will also focus on impacts of the pandemic.

ITEM 6: Platform activities and information points

Commission representatives presented updates since the last plenary, including the biennial report of the Platform, highlights from the seminar on seasonal workers, upcoming activities and updates to demand-led activities. The new activity of Peer Learning Dialogues was also introduced, with a pilot proposed to further explore lessons learned from the pandemic. Calls for expression of interest will be launched in April (Peer Learning Dialogues, Mutual Assistance Projects) and late Spring (Staff Exchange).

AOB

Ahead of the Platform's transition to ELA, Commission representatives displayed a 'thank you and goodbye' montage of photos from Platform events since 2016.

The next plenary meeting dates are 21-22 October 2021.
