



Summary of deliberations

Meeting of the European Platform tackling undeclared work

21-22 October 2021, Hotel Crowne Plaza Bratislava / ZOOM platform

ITEM 1: Opening remarks by the ELA's Executive Director

The Chair welcomed Platform members and observers. He mentioned that the last months contained several important milestones for the Authority, including the signature of the Headquarters Agreement with the Slovak Republic, move to Bratislava and the arrival of seconded national experts. Recently appointed members and observers introduced themselves to the rest of the Platform. The agenda was adopted with a small modification requested by the European Commission.

ITEM 2: Adoption of outputs from extraordinary Platform meeting on 15 July and Platform plenary on 24-25 March

The following documents were declared final:

- Operation conclusions from Platform meeting on 25 March
- Thematic report on third-country migration and undeclared work from Platform meeting on 24 March
- Summary of deliberations from Platform meeting on 15 July

ITEM 3: Follow-up on the thematic discussion 'COVID-19's impact on enforcement authorities' work and priorities'

The operational conclusions from the thematic day were presented and possible follow-up activities were suggested in relation to the number of issues discussed. Regarding inspections not held on-site, their complementary role was emphasized. A separate report will follow concerning the thematic discussion.

ITEM 4: Update on ELA tasks

The Chair stated that the Platform covers a very wide range of activities which makes it an exceptional working group at the Authority. ELA presented on three areas of great relevance to the Platform: concerted and joint inspections (CJIs), labour market analysis and risk assessment and capacity building. Information was provided on the recent and planned CJIs; relevant processes and support provided by the Authority. Inspections in the road transport sector will follow as a priority next year. Participants noted the importance of the possibility to hold CJIs in a short time. Concerning labour mobility analyses and risk assessment, among others, a report on the impact of the COVID on the applicable social security for cross-border workers was prepared and is available on the ELA website. A dedicated workshop on risk assessment is planned later in 2021. Regarding capacity building, the Cooperation Support Unit delivers on this task next to mediation and supporting cooperation, including by 27 national liaison officers. ELA delivered a first set of trainings already in 2020. In 2022, the ELA Capacity Building Centre will be launched and focus will be on road transport. A call for good practices, ELA Mutual Learning and Understanding Programme, ELA Training Courses and cooperation with the four national training centres for labour inspectors are planned.



ITEM 5: Programming future Platform activities

The Chair stated that the current Work Programme for 2021-2022 was adopted by the Platform and endorsed by the ELA Management Board still in 2020. A new work programme for the period beyond 2022 will need to be designed in a different legal and institutional setting, in line with the ELA Regulation and other relevant legal acts as well as the Rules of Procedures of the Platform. The Chair mentioned current successful practice of the Platform working based on detailed work programmes drafted in a bottom-up exercise in a close cooperation with the Platform Secretariat. The importance of this cooperation will even increase to ensure that there are no overlaps between the Platform and other ELA work strands and to make sure that the Platform supports the strategic objectives of ELA. The Chair proposed establishing early next year a dedicated sub-working group tasked with preparing proposals of activities for 2023. Platform Members agreed on the importance to maintain the bottom-up approach in the preparation process of Platform work programmes.

ITEM 6: Communication and awareness raising

The Chair mentioned achievements and lessons learned from the Action Plan on Seasonal Workers. ELA presented a video with highlights of the activities organised during the awareness-raising campaign by the Platform strand. Platform representatives shared their experiences and presented a wide range of activities undertaken during the Action Plan, including close co-operations and activities with other Member States, webinars, press conferences as well as the involvement of TV and social media.

Many members expressed the need to know more in advance about the planned communication activities; early delivery of campaign materials is also important. This is crucial to be able to plan and organise in time appropriate teams and resources for the implementation of campaign activities. The Chair informed the participants that next year's framework for action will focus on the road transport sector. To streamline its coordination and implementation, it is not planned to have a dedicated campaign strand for the Platform. However, a Platform subworking group could be set up to provide ELA's communications team with key ideas and messages relevant for tackling undeclared work and the promotion of declared employment.

ITEM 7: Update by the European Commission

The European Commission highlighted the importance of the Platform in tackling undeclared work. The participants were informed that the Commission regretted that the call for proposals concerning activities to tackle undeclared work, financed by ESF+, had received no applications. Furthermore, the main elements of an on-going study on the effectiveness of policies addressing undeclared work were outlined.

ITEM 8: Platform activities and information points

The mandate of the subworking group that will focus on regularisation initiatives to bring undeclared third-country nationals into the declared economy was adopted. Platform Co-Chair, Bart Stalpaert, will chair the group. The subworking group will meet on 2 December. Platform members and observers willing to become part of the subworking group were invited to express their interest no later than 28 October. Updates were provided on the Platform website which has been successfully transferred to ELAs' website with all its content and the virtual library. Platform Collaborative Workspace will also be hosted by ELA. Participants were encouraged to reply to a satisfaction survey concerning Platforms' activities by 12 November.



ITEM 9: AOB

Participants were invited to use an online poll and answer whether the Platform should align its future meetings with other ELA working groups. 84% of participants supported holding meetings back-to-back with the Working Group of inspections.