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Update on the European Pillar of Social Rights (Social Pillar)

Document for information

1. Introduction and purpose

The document provides an update of the on-going work of EDF on the European Pillar of Social Rights (Social Pillar) and hear feedback from the Board.

2. Questions and comments?

Do you have any update on the Social Pillar from your national level, or international work which EDF should be aware of?

3. Overview of the process and updates

- The first draft of the European Pillar of Social Rights was published on 8 March 2016 along with the public consultation to gather feedback and comments from stakeholders. The public consultation closed on 31 December 2016;
- EDF discussed its first positioning on the Social Pillar at the Annual General Assembly in Dublin. Input from EDF members were included in EDF initial response on the Social Pillar which was published in July 2016. Based on the initial response, a draft response to the public consultation was written and discussed at the Board meeting in Slovakia. Input and comments from members were included in EDF's final response to the public consultation on the Social Pillar in December 2016;
- The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL Committee) was in charge of drafting a report to outline the European Parliament's position on the Social Pillar. EDF worked with some members of the EMPL Committee to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are fully included in the Social Pillar. Among other mentions, the text of the European Parliament's report states: "Insists that the rights of people with disabilities should be mainstreamed throughout the Social Pillar with a human rights-based approach in line with the EU's and its Member States' obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); considers that the provisions should include at least:



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- the right to decent and barrier-free work in fully inclusive, open and accessible work environments and labour markets;
- services and basic income security adapted to specific individual needs, allowing a decent standard of living and social inclusion;
- guaranteeing free movement and the transferability of services between EU Member States;
- inclusive education and training, including provisions for adequate digital literacy;
- specific provisions on protection from exploitation and forced labour of persons with disabilities, particularly among persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities or persons deprived of their legal capacity;"

The European Parliament's report was adopted in plenary on 19 January 2017.

- In November 2016, EDF received an invitation to send a delegation to attend the conference on 23 January 2017. The first tentative programme of the conference did not include any speaker from civil society. As a reaction, EDF and all the members of the Social Platform sent an open letter to the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, to ask for the inclusion of speakers from civil society. As a response, the European Commission included Jana Hainsworth, President of the Social Platform, as one of the speaker in the Working Group F on "The social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union";
- In collaboration with the Social Platform, EDF also decided to dedicate the Disability Intergroup New Year's Reception on 23 January to discussion on Social Europe and Jana Hainsworth was invited to be a speaker;

During the Conference on the Social Pillar, Juncker announced that:

- the European Commission proposal on the European Pillar of Social Rights can be expected in March
- this proposal will only cover Eurozone countries, but it is open to all other EU Member States
- a "[Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth](#)" will take place in Gothenburg on 17 November 2017. According to the [press release](#), the Social Summit "will be an opportunity for key stakeholders to discuss the policy priorities and initiatives set at European level and to see how the European Union, the Member States and social partners at all levels can deliver on their shared



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economic and social priorities. It will seek to gather Heads of State or Government, social partners and other key players so they work together to promote fair jobs and growth.”