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European Parliament Committee EMPL discusses the European pillar of social rights

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The European Parliament Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) discussed the interinstitutional proclamation on the European Pillar of Social Rights as it will be presented at the Social Summit in Göteborg on 17 November 2017.

The European pillar of social rights is built around 20 principles and rights which have to govern the future policy of the Union at social level.

The European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission have worked together during trilogue negotiations on a common declaration on the European pillar of social rights.

When dealing with the question of implementation of the social pillar, the committee EMPL disapproves of the word “would” added by the Council in a way that the sentence now reads: (The implementation of the social pillar) “would require adequate measures to be adopted at the appropriate level”.

The majority of committee members are of the view that “would” is hypothetical and, therefore, not admissible in this context. The proclamation must be credible and clear and, therefore, cannot be hypothetical.

Some members also express the opinion that, with a view to the implementation of the social pillar, legislation is required.

The session's chair, Ms Marita Ulvskog, vice-chair to the committee EMPL, concluded the session by underlining that the committee EMPL has to be present with a strong delegation taking a strong position at the Göteborg summit. After all, this is about the lives of the citizens of the European Union.



The Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament has appointed two sherpas charged with the preparation of the proclamation on the European pillar of social rights on behalf of the European Parliament. One is Tom Vandenkendelaere (EPP, Belgium) and the other is Maria João Rodrigues (S&D, Portugal).

At the seminar organised by Eurofedop in Ghent on 8-9.06.2017, **Mr Vandenkendelaere** (image left) was a speaker on the European pillar of social rights.