



10 reasons to proclaim the European Pillar of Social Rights by the end of the year.

1) Social progress is an aim of the EU, but is too often secondary to economic objectives.

It is time for the EU to take a social turn. The European Pillar of Social Rights will give more weight to social rights enshrined in the treaties and to acknowledge that economic freedoms cannot prevail over social rights. We must continue promoting an ambitious and protective European social model.

2) Europeans, women and men, must have a decent job.

Today a fourth of workers faces low standards, and in-work poverty is on the rise. The definition of common rules for decent working conditions and health and safety at work is essential to guarantee decent work, including new forms of work. The European Pillar of Social Rights reaffirms this objective. It is time to make it an EU priority.

3) The crisis has left deep scars in the EU.

Years of crisis and severe austerity have made Europe's citizens pay a very high price. Globalization, digitalization, social and environmental dumping create strong pressure towards lower social standards. Wage convergence has stopped since 2008. Against this trend, now is the time to build a strong and effective Social Union for the whole EU, with the help of the Pillar of Social Rights.

4) Common principles to tackle social dumping at its roots

Unfair competition, the race to the lowest standards and the too many loopholes that unscrupulous companies abuse to avoid their obligations have generated mistrust between workers, companies and even Member States. The European Pillar of Social Rights states common principles and sets the ground for a level playing field between all workers. It thus addresses one of the root causes of dumping.

5) Poverty and social exclusion are simply not acceptable.

Europe must be a continent that leaves no one behind. It must reinforce its commitment to fight poverty and social exclusion, and to eradicate child poverty. The European Pillar of Social Rights acknowledges Children's right to protection from poverty, the right to adequate social protection and to adequate minimum income.



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6) A union of equality

The principles of non – discrimination and equality at work are essential and need to be defended as such, by combating discrimination in accessing employment and promoting measures that favour a more equal sharing of family responsibilities, through a balanced approach towards maternity, paternity, parental and carers' leave and a better work-life balance. The European Pillar of social rights acknowledges the principles of gender equality and equal opportunities and one of the first legislative proposals associated to targets work-life balance.

7) Let's move away from an austerity-driven European semester.

The European Semester is now famous as a vehicle of austerity policies. It is time for it to include real social objectives and indicators. The Pillar of Social Rights will give us the ground to turn the Semester into a real social economic coordination.

8) A new ambition for Europe, one that can regain the trust of its people

At a time when many European citizens question the European project and its achievements, the best way for the EU to show its relevance is to further protect its citizens. After Brexit, after the crisis, after austerity, building a strong and effective pillar of social rights is an absolute necessity and a signal that the EU is ready to take the next steps. The EU must become an effective social shield for its citizens. Only this way can we rebuild trust in Europe and in the European project.

9) An acknowledgement of new rights

The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights add to the treaties, as did the Charter of Fundamental Rights. They allow to better comprehend the new reality of work and acknowledge the contribution of social protection to our economies and well-being. The Pillar of social rights also re-focuses European integration on social issues after a long period of omission.

10) Be ready for the next treaty change.

We continue fighting for fundamental social rights and social progress to take priority over economic freedoms and competition rules. We want this to be written black on white at the occasion of the next Treaty change. The European Pillar of Social Rights is the first step towards the adoption of a Social Progress Protocol.

→ It is urgent to proclaim the Social Pillar, as is the need for a Social Action Plan to give Europe the means to deliver on its word. We will fight to make sure the European Pillar of Social Rights paves the way for a true Social Union.

Timeline:

→ PES online action day 1: around 7 October Spread the message, raise awareness!
19 October European Council

→ PES EPSCO Ministers' call for proclamation of the pillar : 22 October
23 October EPSCO Council

→ PES online action day 2: 15 November European Pillar of Social Rights now!
17 November Social Summit Göteborg