

# EUROPEAN PILLAR OF SOCIAL RIGHTS

## GROWING ATTENTION, DEEPENING DEBATE

After tabling her draft report on a European Pillar of Social Rights in the European Parliament, MJR has been discussing it with top European experts as well as trade unions and civil society representatives. Most stakeholders have praised the draft report for its vision on how the EU's labour standards and welfare systems should be updated for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but also for its clear view on the legislative and financial instruments needed.

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The public consultation process launched by the European Commission on the Pillar of Social Rights is meeting with big interest across Europe. As EU leaders are expected to adopt in Rome in March 2017 a new roadmap for the EU's future, one of the key political debates centres on how to make sure that the EU provides decent economic opportunities and social protection for everyone.

MJR is making a strong case with European policy-makers that the European Pillar of Social Rights must be a central part of the EU's policy agenda and that EU leaders should not dare to adopt a "roadmap" that neglects Europe's economic and social problems. To stay united after Brexit and to recover properly from its long economic

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crisis, Europe urgently needs stronger instruments to ensure that quality jobs are created at a greater scale, that decent working conditions are respected also in new 'digital' jobs, and that even 'flexible' forms of work come with social and health insurance. The financing of EU welfare states also needs to be updated and should rely less on payroll contributions from individual workers and more on general taxation, including capital gains, wealth or environmental pollution. The

EU and its Member States must fight corporate tax avoidance decisively so that they can invest in education, childcare and social services. This is the only way to make sure that the European economy becomes healthy again and brings good life to ordinary people.

MJR has discussed her draft report with EU Commissioner Marianne Thyssen in Lisbon on 7 October, she presented it in Paris at a high-level workshop of France Stratégie on 18 October, and a detailed discussion was held at a conference organised by the Socialists & Democrats Group in the European Parliament on 20 October.

***“Members of the European Parliament have tabled 1119 amendments”***

Members of the European Parliament have tabled 1119 amendments to MJR's draft report, so lots of work and negotiation lies ahead to build a strong majority behind a strong report, to be voted by the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs in December and by the whole European Parliament in January. Keep your fingers crossed!

Link to the draft report:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=COMPARTL&mode=XML&language=EN&reference=PE589.146>