

MEMO: INFORMAL MEETING OF THE EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL POLICY, HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS COUNCIL – EPSCO

The main topic that the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family will address during the Slovak Presidency is **‘Ensuring jobs and prosperity for the present and the future’**.

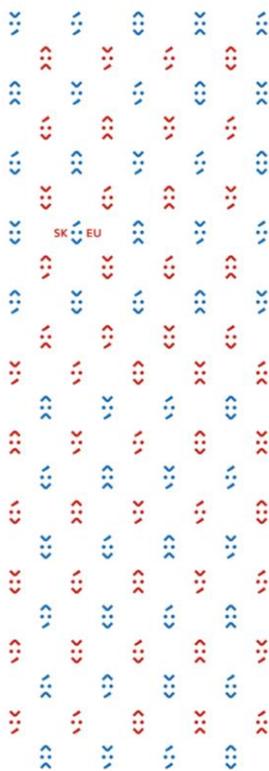
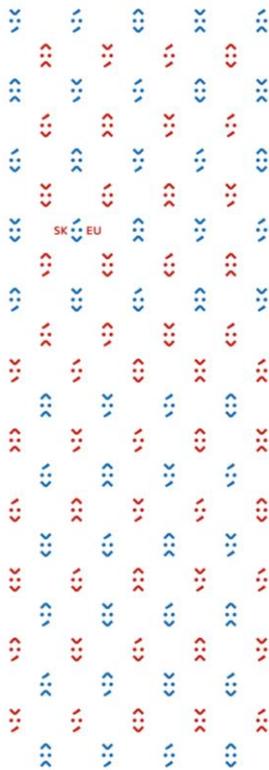
In the area of employment and social affairs, the ministry is particularly focussing on ensuring decent work for all. The topic was chosen in response to changes in the labour market in the transition to the new economic reality, including the green economy and the digital economy, and to the challenges that such changes produce. These challenges include, on the one hand, the need to ensure that the younger generations are well prepared and, on the other hand, the need to activate older people and help them to continue working. It is important that all groups have opportunities for personal and career development, including people with disabilities. With this in mind, the ministry will also address the issue of active aging during the Slovak Presidency. It will also seek solutions for long-term unemployment and youth unemployment, focussing in particular on how the Commission’s current initiatives can be used for that purpose.

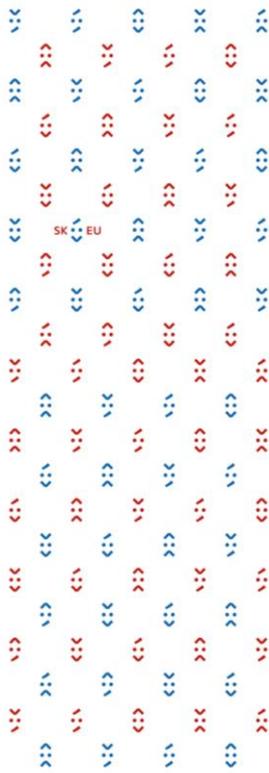
The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic will be organising several events during the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU (July – December 2016).

One of the most important events is the informal meeting of ministers for employment and social policy in EPSCO (Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council), which will take place on 14 and 15 July in the Reduta in Bratislava with around 150 guests. The meeting will be chaired by the Slovak Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Ján Richter.

The agenda of the meeting includes a thematic working visit for the meeting’s attendees to a confectionery plant at Sereď operated by I.D.C. Holding, a.s., which is a modern example of the effect of digitalisation and automation on the character of work.

Discussions at the EPSCO meeting will focus mainly on digitalisation and its impact on the labour market under the title ‘Facing social and technological challenges in the world of work – demographic change, migration and digitalisation’. Discussion of these highly topical issues will reflect the relevant experience of Member States, the potential impact of the challenges on the labour market and social security, and the development of policies with the potential to solve related problems in the Member States.



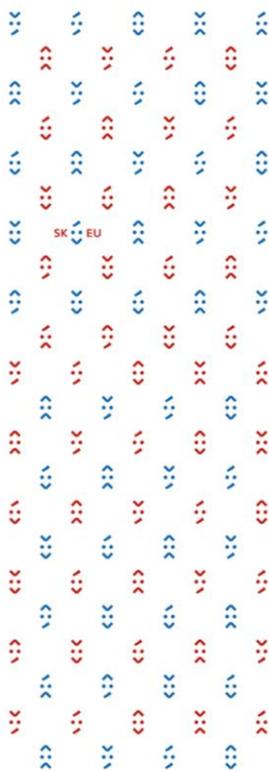


Speakers at the meeting will include:

- Ms *Marianne Thyssen*, EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, who will speak on the topic: *Public consultation on the European social rights pillar*
- Ms *Martina Lubyová*, director of the Centre for Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, who will speak on the topic: *Facing social and technological challenges in the world of work – demographic changes, migration and digitalisation*
- Mr *Heinz Koller*, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia of the ILO, who will speak on the topic: *The future of work: work and society – challenges in the area of social security and aging*
- Mr *Thorben Albrecht*, Permanent State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Germany, who will speak on the topic: *The digital economy and digital jobs: reconfiguring the job for the digital world*
- Ms *Ineke Dezentjé Hamming-Bluemink*, president CEMEET (Council of European Employers of the Metal, Engineering and Technology-based Industries): *A study on digitalisation and its impacts on the labour market from the perspective of industrial employers*
- Mr *Jean-Christophe Dumont*, Head of the OECD's International Migration Division: *Migration of highly qualified workers*
- Mr *Denis Meynent*, member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC): *Opinion of the EESC on this topic: Impact of technological progress on the social security system and employment law*
- Mr *Juan Menéndez-Valdés*, director of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound): *The future of work in Europe in the global context – types of employment (latest data from the European Jobs Monitor)*



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On Thursday evening, a formal dinner and cultural programme for the meeting's participants is scheduled to take place at Bratislava Castle.