



BACKGROUND BRIEF

26 June 2026

Employment and Social Policy Council

29 June 2026, Luxembourg

PRESS

EN

Chairs:

- Marinos Moushouttas, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance of the Republic of Cyprus
- Clea Hadjistephanou-Papaellina, Deputy Minister of Social Welfare of the Republic of Cyprus
- Konstantinos Ioannou, Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus

Commission representative: Roxana Mînzatu, executive vice-president for social rights and skills, quality jobs and preparedness

Starting time: 9.30

Media opportunities:

- Doorstep by Minister Moushouttas: +/-8.40
- Doorstep by Deputy Minister Hadjistephanou-Papaellina: +/-8.45
- Doorstep by Minister Ioannou: +/-8.50
- Press conference with Deputy Minister Hadjistephanou-Papaellina and EVP Mînzatu: +/-14.30
- Press conference with Ministers Moushouttas and Ioannou, and EVP Mînzatu : +/-16.45

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Main agenda topics:

EU employment and social affairs ministers are expected to approve Council conclusions on cyber violence against girls. They will also be invited to approve conclusions on housing in relation to demographic shifts, and exchange views on housing security for students and middle-income households. An exchange of views will take place on advancing fair labour mobility, with a particular focus on modernising and simplifying social security coordination rules. Also on the agenda are the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy, the European Semester Spring Package, and gender-related aspects of job quality.

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[Meeting page on the Council website](#)

[Press conferences, doorsteps and other public events in video streaming](#)

[High quality photo and video material](#)

Cyber violence against girls (in public session)

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on preventing and combating cyber violence against girls. Based on a report produced by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), the conclusions call for:

- better support for victims, parents and educators
- preventive action such as effective content moderation on the part of economic actors (e.g. platforms, social media)
- more resources and technical expertise for law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organisations fighting this phenomenon

The conclusions were drawn up in the context of the review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, which is the UN agenda for gender equality and women's empowerment.

[Preventing and combating cyber violence against girls](#) (draft Council conclusions)

[From lived reality to policy action: Combating cyber violence against girls in the EU](#) (EIGE report)

[Ending violence against women](#) (background information)

Housing and demography (in public session)

Ministers are expected to approve conclusions on housing, with a focus on shifting demographics and shaping policies.

The conclusions note that in many EU member states, housing has evolved into a societal, multifaceted and intergenerational challenge that affects cohesion, social, demographic and environmental sustainability, competitiveness, and public trust.

They call on policymakers at national level to take into consideration the interplay between demographic trends and housing needs, as well as the needs of those who struggle to access affordable housing. The Commission is invited to continue supporting the efforts of member states at all levels of government, including at regional and local levels.

[Housing: Shifting demographics and shaping policies](#) (draft Council conclusions)

[The EU's housing crisis](#) (background information)

Fair labour mobility (in public session)

Ministers will exchange views on the topic of advancing fair labour mobility through modernised and simplified social security coordination rules.

Following the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the revision of the EU's regulations on social security coordination (regulation 883/2004), ministers will discuss further potential changes to the legislation, with a particular focus on strengthening cooperation and data exchange between member states.

The results of this discussion should feed into the Commission's work on a new proposal that is expected to address these issues alongside new trends such as cross-border telework.

[Advancing fair labour mobility through modernised and implied social security coordination rules](#) (presidency steering note)

[EU rules on coordination of social security systems](#) (background information)

[Social security coordination: EU member states' representatives confirm provisional agreement](#) (Council press release)

EU Anti-Poverty Strategy (in public session)

Ministers will exchange views on the recently published social package, with a focus on achieving the goals of the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.

The EU Anti-Poverty Strategy was published on 6 May as part of the Commission's social package, with the aim of reducing the number of people at risk of poverty by at least 15 million by 2030 and eradicating poverty in the EU by 2050. It integrates three priorities: quality jobs for all, effective access to quality services, and adequate income support.

Ministers will be asked to share their views on the best ways to implement the measures proposed in the strategy in order to speed up progress towards achieving the poverty-reduction target. They will also exchange information about approaches being taken at a national level to encourage the take-up of social benefits and services.

[Social package: delivering on the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and pathways for effective implementation](#) (presidency steering note)

[EU Anti-Poverty Strategy](#) (Commission communication)

Housing security for all (in public session)

Ministers will exchange views on the topic of housing security, with a focus on responding to the needs of students and middle-income households. They will be invited to share examples of regulatory and administrative measures that have proven effective in addressing the kinds of housing affordability challenges that are faced by these groups, with a focus on metropolitan, touristic and university cities experiencing housing shortages. They will also explore ways to further mobilise public and private investment in order to expand affordable housing options for students and middle-income households while also ensuring housing security, social inclusion and long-term affordability.

[Housing security for all: responding to the needs of students and middle-income households](#) (presidency steering note)

[The EU's housing crisis](#) (background information)

European Semester (in public session)

The Commission will present the European Semester Spring Package. The Council is expected to:

- endorse opinions by the Employment Committee (EMCO) and the Social Protection Committee (SPC) on the 2026 CSRs and the implementation of the 2025 CSRs
- approve the employment and social aspects of the 2025 CSRs

The European Semester is the EU's framework for coordinating and monitoring economic and social policies. The annual cycle begins in November, when the Commission sets the priorities for the year to come, and ends in October of the following year, when national governments submit their draft budgetary plans. As part of the exercise, the Commission publishes a Spring Package containing targeted, country-specific recommendations for all member states on ways to tackle key economic and social challenges.

[Assessment of the country-specific recommendations for 2026 and implementation of the country-specific recommendations for 2025: Opinion of the Employment Committee and the Social Protection Committee](#)
[Contribution on the employment and social policies aspects of the country-specific recommendations](#)
[Draft country-specific recommendations](#)

[Commission recommendations for Council recommendations on the economic, social, employment, structural and budgetary policies of member states](#)

[The European Semester explained \(background information\)](#)

Gender-related aspects of job quality

The chair of EMCO will present key messages on gender-related aspects of job quality. The messages are the outcome of a tripartite meeting organised by EMCO's Policy Analysis Group (PAG), which took place on 24 and 25 March 2026 with representatives of EU-level and national social partners, member states and the Commission.

[Key messages from the Employment Committee on gender-related aspects of job quality](#)

Other points

- Current legislative files: revision of the coordination of social security systems; sixth revision of the directive on carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxic substances at work; traineeships directive (information from the presidency)
- Equal treatment directive: state of play (information from the presidency)
- Establishing a European day in remembrance of victims of accidents at work (information from Belgium and Italy, supported by Malta)
- Work programme of the incoming presidency (information from Ireland)
- Presidency events (information from the presidency)

Informal lunch debate

Over lunch, ministers will take part in an informal discussion on the protection of workers from climate change and exposure to extreme temperatures. Ministers will be asked to intervene on whether there is a need to strengthen the occupational health and safety standards in relation to extreme temperatures and on ways that member states can protect workers from the impacts of climate change.
