



Latvian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

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EPSCO WORK PROGRAMME

1ST JANUARY – 30TH JUNE 2015

EPSCO TEAM

PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF LATVIA TO THE EU



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LOGO



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- The logo for the Latvian presidency of the Council of the European Union is based on the classic image of the grinding stone. The circular stone has been known throughout Europe for centuries and is rich in associations.
- The grinding stone was once a significant innovation and a trigger of change in households across Europe. Today, it remains the instrument that brings about bread, the symbol of nourishment and prosperity. Made from stone, it can endure centuries of motion and still sustain productivity.
- The circular shape of the grinding stone suggests unity and wholeness – the commonly held ideals and values upon which the European project is built.
- The dynamic movement of the rotating grinding stone brings about energy and growth with which Europe meets new challenges. With Latvia at the wheel, Europeans are certain to gain new perspectives.



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PRIORITIES



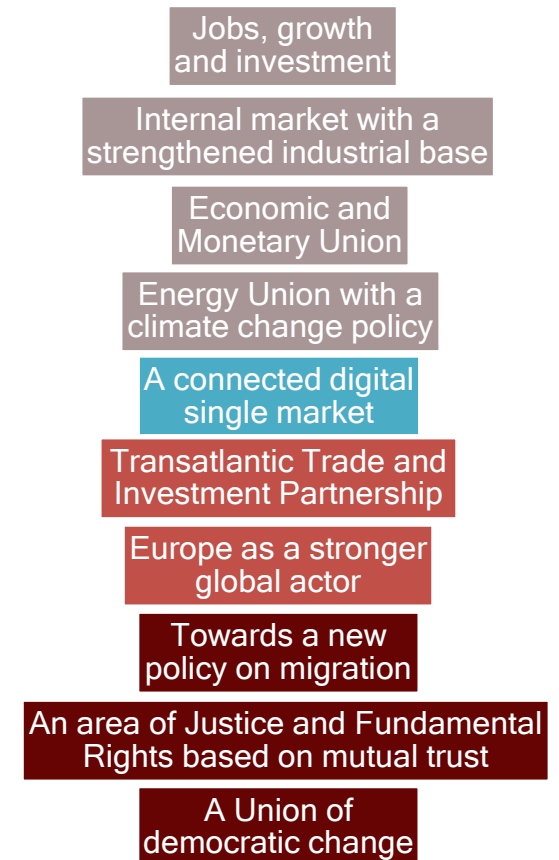


Context

EU Council's strategic agenda



Guidelines for the Commission





Context EPSCO

EU 2020 targets

- **75% of the 20-64 year - olds to be employed**
- **20 million fewer people at risk of poverty**

Challenges

- **Low growth**
- **High unemployment (youth, long-term unemployed)**
- **Increasing poverty**

Recovery

- **Investment**
- **Structural reforms**
- **Responsible growth-friendly fiscal consolidation**



Priorities in the Field of Employment and Social Policy

1. Inclusive and sustainable labour market participation

Increased attention to: job quality, long term unemployed, people with disabilities, youth

2. The Europe 2020 Strategy mid-term review & European Semester

3. Social dimension of the EMU- social dialogue



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INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE LABOUR MARKET PARTICIPATION





Inclusive and sustainable labour market participation



Social policies

Highlighting the situation of persons with disabilities:

- Progress and challenges raised in regard to approach to disability – from the medical model to the social model
- Focus on labour market participation
- The rights of children with disability

Adoption of the declaration during a high level meeting on disability



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**THE EUROPE
2020 STRATEGY
MID-TERM
REVIEW
& EUROPEAN
SEMESTER**



The Europe 2020 Strategy & European semester I

9 March 2015: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- Annual Growth Survey 2015: exchange of views and Council conclusions (including on health aspects of the 2015 AGS)
- (Poss.) Employment Guidelines: State of play
- Joint Employment Report: adoption
- SPC report on the social situation in the EU: Endorsement of key messages
- (Poss.) Commission presentation of the Mid-term review of the Europe 2020 strategy and exchange of views

The Europe 2020 Strategy & European semester II

18 June 2015: Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

- (Poss.) Employment guidelines (adoption)
- Approval of 2015 Country-specific recommendations on Member States' employment and social policies and draft explanatory note
- Endorsement of the opinions of EMCO and SPC on the National Reform Programmes 2015 and the implementation of the 2014 Country-specific recommendations
- Endorsement of the Employment Performance Monitor and benchmarks
- Assessment of the 2015 CSR package on cross-cutting issues: SPC Report



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SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE EMU - SOCIAL DIALOGUE

Equality between women and men

- Trio Presidency Declaration on Equality between Women and Men
- Council conclusions on Gender Gap in Pensions
- Events on Gender Equality issues
 - EIGE in collaboration with the LV PSY will present the second edition of Gender Equality Index in June 2015
 - an international conference on women's empowerment in the context of the European Year for Development will be organized in Riga
- Gender mainstreaming and gender perspective will also be integrated in other events
- Work will be continued on the Women on Company boards directive



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RESPONSIBILITY OF DOSSIERS

Vivita Bērziņa



- Coordination of EPSCO, coordination of the Tripartite Social summit
- Social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union
- Gender equality
- Women on company boards directive
- Seafarers directive
- Council Conclusions on EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020
- Council Conclusions on gender gap in pensions
- G-20 employment guidelines

Linda Pauga



- EURES regulation
- Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States
- Council conclusions on the Annual Growth Survey package
- Council Conclusions on Inclusive labour markets
- Europe 2020 Strategy / European Semester- employment issues
- Proposal for changes to the Council Decision establishing the Employment Committee
- Employment Committee (EMCO)

Egita Šķibeļe



- Proposal for a Decision of the Council and of the European Parliament on undeclared work platform
- Revised Association Agreements
- Proposals for Council Decisions authorising MS to ratify the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention
- Europe 2020 Strategy / European Semester
- Proposal for changes to the Council Decision establishing the Social Protection Committee
- Social Protection Committee (SPC)

EPSCO meetings

- EPSCO - March 9th, 2015 – Brussels
- Informal EPSCO - April 21st - 22nd, 2015 - Riga
- EPSCO June 18th , 2015 - Luxembourg

Social Questions Working Party

1 January – 31 January 2015

- Monday, 12 January 2015 - EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 - Adapting to new challenges – Council conclusions
- Friday, 23 January 2015 - Council Decisions on the EMCO and SPC
- Monday, 26 January 2015 (afternoon only) – ILO Decisions
- Wednesday, 28 January 2015 (morning only) – EC presentation of the Proposal for a Council Decision on guidelines for the employment policies of the Member States
- Thursday, 29 January 2015 - EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work 2014-2020 - Adapting to new challenges – Council conclusions

Other events

1 January – 31 January 2015

EMCO / SPC:

- 15th January – SPC
- 20th January – ISG
- 21st January – ISG/Joint ISG + EMCO IG
- 22nd January – EMCO IG
- 26th January - EMCO
- 27th January – EMCO ad hoc

Events in Riga:

- 22nd – 23rd High level Expert working group on Gender Equality

European Parliament:

- 20th FEMM (*presentation of the Latvian Presidency Work Programme*)
- 21st EMPL (*presentation of the Latvian Presidency Work Programme*)
- 22nd EMPL
- 29th EMPL



Other meetings in Latvia (I)

January

- 22 – 23 High level Expert working group on Gender Equality

February

- 2 -3 Informal meeting of the SPC
- 3 – 4 joint EMCO and SPC conference «Inclusive labour markets in the EU: the role of improved job quality and enhanced inclusion»
- 4-5 Informal meeting of the EMCO

March

- 30 -31 Social Partners Forum on Social Dialogue

Other meetings in Latvia (II)

April

- **21 – 22 Informal EPSCO meeting**
- **27 – 28 Conference on Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)**

May

- **5 – 6 Meeting of the Mutual Information System on Social Protection (MISSOC) network**
- **11 – 12 High Level Meeting on Disability**
- **26 – 27 Thematic Day and Plenary of the Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC)**

June

- **11 – 12 Meeting of the Board of the Public Employment Services (PES) network**
- **15 Conference on social services and deinstitutionalization**



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Welcome Video: Latvian Presidency of the Council of the EU



81%

have sung in a choir at a certain moment in their lives



23



Average age

35

years

59



65%



35%

78%

with Master's degree



9

Years in public sector



72%

work out at least once a week



Average number of kids:

1,6



58%

have kids

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE LATVIAN PRESIDENCY IN BRUSSELS?

A snapshot of the team at the Latvian Permanent Representation to the European Union

45%

born in the capital,

RIGA



Speak

3,6

languages



94%

have smartphones



91%

have an account in at least one social media network



follow ice hockey

48%



potato pancakes



59%

have been in at least one of the Eastern Partnership countries



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37% wear glasses



78%

have picked mushrooms in the last few years



Favourite national dishes are:



and mushroom sauce



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Culture







More information

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Youtube: <http://latvia.eu/news/welcome-video-latvian-presidency-council-eu>



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**THANK YOU,
HONESTLY!**