DEDICATED WORKING GROUP ON IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF LABOUR MARKETS AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS

3rd meeting: “Childcare provisions in the European Union”
17 September 2020

Virtual meeting

Agenda

09h15 – 09h30  Connecting to meetings

09h30 - 10h00  Separate preparatory meetings: planning the day

10h00 - 10h20  Welcome, Introduction and lessons learned from Covid-19

  Maxime Cerutti, BusinessEurope Social Affairs Director
  Guillaume Affelat, CEEP Policy Advisor
  Valentina Guerra, SMEunited Policy Advisor
  Esther Lynch, ETUC Deputy General Secretary

10h20 – 11h10  EU policy to improve childcare provisions in Europe and to increase women’s participation in the labour market

  Greet Vermeylen, Policy Officer, Gender Equality Unit, DG Justice
  Presentation of the Gender Equality Strategy and the EU ambitions regarding childcare
  Jiri Svarc, European Commission, DG Employment, Head of Unit Social Investment Strategy
  Investing in children and funding in current and future MFF
  Rait Kuuse, Chair of the Social Protection Committee (SPC), European semester and country specific recommendations on childcare

Discussion

11h10 - 11h30  Coffee break
Investing to improve availability and affordability of childcare services, as well as quality of jobs in the sector

Chris Clarke, Economist, OECD, presentation on success factors and challenges when implementing childcare infrastructures development strategies
Alexia Vella - Representative from JobsPlus, Malta, Results achieved through the Free Childcare Scheme
Darragh O’Connor, Head of Strategic Organising at SIPTU, Ireland

Discussion

12h45-13h45
Lunch break

14h00-14h45
Barcelona targets, past, present and future

Jeanette Grenfors, Senior Legal Adviser, SALAR
Anna Ludwinek, Research Manager at Eurofound, Presentation of the Study on afterschool hours childcare

Discussion

14h45-15h30
Social Partners and childcare provisions: what can be done?

Minna Etu-Seppälä, Chair of BusinessEurope Equal Opportunities Network, Chemical Industry Federation of Finland
Miriam Pinto Lomeña, Responsible of International Relations, Social Affairs Department, CEOE, Spain
Jakob Embacher, Policy Assistant responsible for Childcare, EPSU
Sonia Ostrica, National policy coordinator equal opportunities and gender equality, UIL

Discussion

15h30 - 16h00
Separate meetings: taking stock of the discussions

16h00 - 16h30
Conclusions: Assessing the need for joint or coordinated Social Partners’ proposals/actions

Esther Lynch, ETUC Deputy General Secretary
Guillaume Affelat, CEEP Policy Advisor
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16h30
End of the meeting