

FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES EMPLOIS DE LA FAMILLE



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June 2018

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1. HUNGARY : Hungarian PM wants to change European right

In a speech on June 16, Viktor Orban acknowledged that the idea of leaving the European People's Party had crossed his mind. He believes that it would be easy to form a coalition of parties on the basis of the rejection of migration policies. The Hungarian hopes, however, that his party, Fidesz, remains within the EPP to better transform it. He wants to bring to the European level what he has developed at the national level and help the party to reconnect with "its Christian roots".

The speech is entirely available [here](#)

2. AUSTRIA : The future Austrian presidency of the EU for a "Europe that protects"

The program of the Austrian Presidency of the EU in the second half of 2018 is known. Migration, digital and cooperation with the Western Balkans are the three priorities. More than 200 legislative proposals must also be finalized within one year of the European elections. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz will present the agenda of the Austrian presidency to the plenary of the European Parliament on 3 July in Strasbourg.

The whole program is available [here](#)

3. GERMANY: weakening of Chancellor Angela Merkel

Rarely, the CDU and CSU members of the Bundestag held separate meetings on Thursday 14 June. The Bavarian branch of the German right is calling for tough and immediate measures against the fight against immigration. The German Chancellor has asked her troops to give her until the June summit time to negotiate with her European partners, which the CSU does not accept.

If Angela Merkel is not able to hold her majority, a vote of confidence could be organized and lead to the downfall of the one who has been leading Germany for 12 years. Regional elections are to be held in Bavaria on October 14, and the CSU fears a rise in AfD, which could achieve a good score in this traditionally conservative region.

4. POLAND: The main European parties call on the Commission to take action against Poland

The leaders of the Social Democrats, Conservatives, Liberals, Ecologists and the Radical Left have signed a joint letter in which they ask the President and the First Vice-President of the Commission to open a new infringement procedure against the Polish government (PiS) before the EU Court of Justice. In question, the forced retirement of judges of the Supreme Court, which will come into effect on July 3, which will allow the PiS to place his supporters. In parallel, the Commission's procedure for non-compliance with the rule of law against Poland in December is still in progress.

5. ITALY: Ending 88 days of political turmoil, a new Italian League-5 Star Movement coalition government is finally born, with Conte as PM.

On the eve of the Italian National Day celebrated on 2 June, and after 88 days of negotiations, the Italian government crisis came to an end. On 1 June, the new Prime Minister, **Giuseppe Conte** has taken the oath of office before the Head of State **Sergio Mattarella**. The new Italian PM, 54, is not a politician but a jurist, namely a Professor of Private Law at the University of Florence. He will lead the government, along with 2 "Deputy" Prime Ministers from the two parties that gave birth to the new government renamed 'yellow-green': **Luigi Di Maio**, leader of the 5 Star Movement and **Matteo Salvini** of the Northern League.

Along with Conte, a team of 18 new ministers including only 5 women also swore on the Constitution in the Quirinale Palace. Here is the list of Italian Ministers and departments: Luigi Di Maio, 5 Star Movement, appointed Minister for Economic Development, Labour and Social Policies will have to tackle the citizenship income project as well as reforming the Fornero law on pensions and, mostly, deal with the theme of vouchers, a payment tool for occasional services. Abolished by the Matteo Renzi Government and replaced with the 'Family Booklet', the old vouchers are in fact regretted by the new government who wants to reintroduce them in some sectors, including the domestic one, in particular with regards to cleaning and babysitting, taking the French system as a reference point.

Moving from labour onto family affairs, Lorenzo Fontana becomes Italy's newly appointed Minister of Family and Disability while the designated Minister of Economy and Finance, Giovanni Tria, is called to address strategic programmatic points of the Government agreement such as the introduction of flat taxes. Next, Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini will lead the Interior, a crucial Ministry for the League, intent on pushing some of their front-running proposals on top of the agenda: from the right to self-defense to a crackdown on landings and illegal migrants. Enzo Moavero Milanesi serves as Minister of Foreign Affairs and, following a tough tug of war with the Presidential Colle concerning his appointment, Paolo Savona takes on European Affairs. Savona is in fact opposed to structural aspects of current EU regulations, including those on the Euro that, according to him, would favor Germany. This is why his initial appointment to the Economy portfolio was rejected and the agreement between the League and 5 Star faltered.

To continue the list of Ministers, Elisabetta Trenta leads Defense, while the well-known lawyer Giulia Bongiorno, takes on Public Administration, Erika Stefani, Regional Affairs and Autonomies, Gian Marco Centinaio Agricultural and Forestry Policies, Marco Bussetti Education, Riccardo Fraccaro Parliamentary Relations, Alfonso Bonafede Justice, Barbara Lezzi Southern Affairs, Danilo Toninelli Infrastructures and Transports, Alberto Bonisoli Cultural Heritage, Giulia Grillo Health and Sergio Costa Environment.

As highlighted by some Italian newspapers, never before in the Italian Republic's history was such a large number of "novices", or political outsiders included in a same government. In fact, 89.5% of the Giuseppe Conte government Ministers are serving for the first time. Only 2 out of 19 members (i.e. 10.5%) held previous positions: namely Paolo Savona (current Minister of European Affairs and former Minister of Industry under the Ciampi government) and Enzo Moavero Milanesi (current Minister for Foreign Affairs who previously held the same position under the Monti and Letta governments).

6. MIGRATION: the European Commission wants 10,000 border guards

On June 12, the College of Commissioners adopted a proposal to triple the budget for migration and external border security for the period 2021-2027. That is € 34.9 billion against 13 for 2014-2020. The Commission proposes to allocate € 12 billion to endow Frontex with 10,000 coast guards and border guards, compared with only 1,500 today. € 4.8 billion would be distributed among EU Member states, depending on their migratory pressure. An asylum and migration fund would be allocated € 10.4 billion to assist EU Member states with asylum, integration, the fight against illegal immigration and the return of non-eligible people. to the asylum. The Commission is also proposing the creation of an asylum agency, which both Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel proposed.

7. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: The European Parliament sets the distribution of seats for deputies after Brexit

MEPs agreed by a very large majority (566 votes in favor, 94 against, 31 abstentions) on the composition of the hemicycle after 2019. The number of MEPs will decrease from 751 to 705. Of the 73 seats currently allocated to the United Kingdom, 27 will be divided among 14 States (including 5 additional ones for France). 46 are reserved for future enlargement of the EU. The European Council of 28 and 29 June must definitively adopt the future composition of the European Parliament.

8. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: Member States propose mandatory minimum threshold for electing MEPs

The EU Council of Ministers on 7 June adopted its position on the reform of the electoral law for the European elections. Member States propose a mandatory threshold of 2-5% of the vote to elect MEPs in countries with more than 35 seats in the European Parliament. Germany demanded such a reform after the German Constitutional Court abolished its 3% threshold before the 2014 European elections, which saw the election of a member of the neo-Nazi NPD party.

The countries concerned by the reform would have until the European elections of 2024 to implement it. Ministers are also in favor of printing the names or logos of European political parties on the ballot papers. The Council also requires effective sanctions against citizens who try to vote simultaneously in several Member States. The European Parliament must approve the text so that it can enter into force.

9. EUROPEAN ELECTIONS: some French parties start thinking about the future

Looking for well-known personalities at national level, French parties struggle to compose their list for 2019.

■ FRENCH SOCIALISTS DISAGREE AS TO THEIR LIST

Part of the French socialists do not want Pierre Moscovici to lead the list to the Europeans. At a press conference on 6 June, former Minister Christian Eckert renewed his offer of services to drive the PS list in the next European elections. An application that aims to propose an alternative to the European Commissioner Pierre Moscovici. The name of former Justice

Minister Christiane Taubira circulates, but for a union list of the Left. Elise Lucet, famous French journalist is also sometimes mentioned.

■ **GENERATION'S AND EELV OPEN TO AN ALLIANCE FOR EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

Génération.s, the Movement of the former PS candidate for the 2017 presidential election, Benoît Hamon, and EELV (ecologist party) are trying to close a deal in order to make common list. This common list could be led by Noël Mamère. Both seek to find a common ideological ground regarding the fight against inequalities and the ecological transition. In early June, Benoit Hamon, accompanied by Yanis Varoufakis (former Greek Minister of Finance) launched the idea of a primary upstream of the European election. A freshly welcomed proposal on the Left.

■ **INSOUMIS ARE ALMOST IN ORDER OF BATTLE.**

The party of Jean-Luc Melanchon, France Insoumise is one of the most advanced. It should have validated by a committee of citizens at the end of June the idea of a head of two-headed list parity with two objectives: to propose an alternative to Europe without being close to the challenge coming from the extreme right and to arrive at the top of the French left parties. The party is also one of the few that has achieved an alliance with other European parties: the Spanish Podemos and the Portuguese El Bloco.

■ **ONE YEAR BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, THE EUROPEAN LEFT DEBATE WITH CITIZENS IN PARIS**

An evening entitled "Tomorrow - the future of Europe is the left. Protect our planet, our water and clean air, for the health of all" will take place at the Cirque d'hiver, on June 29, 11 months before the elections of May 2019. The leaders of the European left (PES and S & D group at Parliament), the mayors of the left cities of Europe, the new Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, the European Commissioner Pierre Moscovici .. will intervene throughout the evening. An exchange will take place with the public and the citizens who will appear on the social networks. The party The Republicans organizes the next day, a national council on Europe in Menton (Alpes-Maritimes).

■ **SOCIAL EUROPE**

10. SOCIAL SECURITY: Tensions between the Member States on the regulation of the coordination of social security systems

WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER

1. While EU Member States are likely to reach a comprehensive agreement at the next Employment and Social Council (EPSCO), they have not been able to reach agreement on a number of issues in the chapter. Particularly on social benefits and regulation focused on social coordination of security systems (Regulation 883/2004) at the meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the EU (COREPER) on 13 June.

Several national delegations are concerned about the reduction to three months of the period during which the responsibility for the payment of unemployment benefits lies with the Member State where the workers' contributions are deducted.

For cross-border workers, it is currently the Member state in which the worker lives who is responsible for paying unemployment benefits. There is even a compensation mechanism in the Member State where the contributions are deducted and paid to the Member State, but on average this compensation corresponds to only one third of the social benefits paid by the Member State of residence.

This is why the European Commission has suggested a paradigm shift. The Member State where contributions are paid would take over the responsibility for social benefits after a period of 12 months. In addition to the social allowance, the Member State where the contributions were made would be obliged to provide support to the unemployed by providing training and follow-up, etc.

This significant change, combined with a sharp reduction in the contribution period, could have a significant impact on some Member States, such as Luxembourg, where the number of cross-border workers is very high (around 43%).

Therefore, several delegations (Austria, Malta, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg) would support these new arrangements provided that there is at least a transition period to implement them. This could be seven years instead of the 24 months currently mentioned.

During the COREPER discussions, the indexation of the family allowances from which the workers came is put on the table by several delegations such as Austria, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland. These countries have proposed the introduction of a review clause to leave the door open for this type of indexation in the future.

11. WORK LIFE BALANCE : Member States empty the Directive of its substance

WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER

1. The "work-life balance" directive proposes that each parent, at the birth of a child, be entitled to four months of paid leave up to the level of sickness benefits. France strongly opposes it.
2. COREPER on 13 June, bringing together the permanent representatives of the EU, left two political points unresolved:
 - Transferability between the father and mother of parental leave
 - Compensation arrangements and vacation periods

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- Transferability between father and mother of parental leave

Member States intend to reduce the lock-up period from four to two months. This reduction, however, is not supported by some MS delegations who wish to reduce it to a month. Member States would also like to provide for greater flexibility in terms of remuneration, which would not necessarily be linked to sickness benefits, as suggested by the Commission but at an "adequate" level, left to the discretion of the Member States.

Holiday periods for caregivers could also become much more flexible and the Commission's proposal for a period of five days a year could also be entirely abandoned.

Another novelty envisaged includes the introduction of a "gateway clause". For Member States with national legislation that goes beyond the provisions of EU law for certain types of holidays, a derogation could be granted.

The main objective is to have different types of leave (maternity leave, paternity leave, parental leave, carers' leave) within the EU28, while taking into account the diversity of national legislation in the field.

- Compensation arrangements and vacation periods.

Member States have abolished the notion of remuneration on the basis of sickness benefits and replaced it with "adequate" remuneration. In this respect, some Member States would like to go further and eliminate any reference to remuneration.

The aim was to prepare and facilitate negotiations at the forthcoming Employment and Social Policy Council (EPSCO).

National delegations are clearly moving towards greater flexibility in the proposals put forward by the Commission.

If Member states cannot agree, the text may be dropped. The future Austrian presidency of the Council does not seem inclined to push it forward. In these interinstitutional negotiations, two worlds are in conflict: the Parliament, which wants to go further than the initial Commission text and the Council which wants to reduce its contours, considering that the role of the EU is not to act in this area.

■ EUROPEAN FUNDING

12. JUNCKER PLAN: InvestEU or how the European Commission intends to invest in the EU

WHAT YOU MUST REMEMBER

2. Launched in 2015, the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI or Plan Juncker) aimed to inject an additional € 315 billion of investment into the European economy. The scheme, with an initial capital of 21 billion, operated through a leverage effect. The plan was extended in 2017, aiming for a total investment of 500 billion euros.
3. The European Commission wants to set up a new investment fund of € 650bn over seven years for the period 2021-2027 to replace the EFSI. It was presented on June 6, 2018 by the Vice-President of the Commission, Finland's Jyrki Katainen.
4. The stated objective is to fund more while the departure of the United Kingdom puts the finances of the EU under pressure.

▪ SECURE PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

For the next financial framework of the EU, which will cover the period 2021-2027, the Commission wants to protect € 15.2 billion (in current prices). This money will make it possible to provision a guarantee fund worth 38 billion €. The European executive is even hoping to increase it to € 47.5 billion, thanks to the financial support of third parties such as the European Investment Bank or national players such as Caisse des Dépôts or BPI in France. The fund will then guarantee loans for projects across the EU. Jyrki Katainen estimates that if everything goes as planned, it will mobilize a total amount of € 650 billion of investments.

⇒ The logic of the European Commission is always the same: by reducing the risks for the private sector, it will be more inclined to invest.

Leverage was calculated based on the current performance of the EFSI. This last allows to raise 16 € for 1 € of guarantee. InvestEU bets on € 13.70 mobilized for € 1 guarantee. The decrease in the ratio is due to the desire to finance more projects of a social nature.

▪ **FOUR KEY PRIORITIES:**

The Commission insisted that the new fund would be easier and more transparent for the recipient businesses. Indeed, all EU funding programs would be grouped together in a single structure.

The guarantee fund envelope of € 38 billion will be divided into four major funding areas:

- € 11.5 billion to guarantee projects that "support financing and investment in sustainable infrastructure" in sectors that support "competitiveness", "sustainability of the economy and its growth", "social resilience", "strengthening the single market" and improving the flow of capital in Europe.
- € 11.25 billion to guarantee investments in research, innovation and digital transformation,
- € 11.25 billion to guarantee better access to finance for SMEs.
- € 4 billion to guarantee projects allowing better access to microfinance and the financing of social enterprises.

To finance a project, it will be possible to combine a loan from the future InvestEU and a classic European grant, such as those provided by regional funds (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD ...).

The Commission also intends to use the new fund to promote the implementation of the reforms provided for in the economic recommendations it sends to the countries each year. It also gives Member States the possibility to transfer up to 5% of their Cohesion fund envelope to InvestEU. Governments could choose the sector and even the territory that would benefit from the projects funded through this new contribution.

▪ **THE EIB WITHDRAWAL**

In its proposal, the Commission plans to maintain control over the use of InvestEU. This change is justified by the objectives represented by the four funding areas of the fund. More political control is therefore considered necessary.

It is also strategic. Whereas for EFSI, the EIB managed all the capital directly, for InvestEU it should only get 75%. The rest will be delegated to other institutions, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) or Caisse des Dépôts in France. A situation that displeases the EIB strongly. It will try to reverse the balance when the text will pass to the Parliament and the Council of the EU.

13. HORIZON EUROPE : Commission is beginning radical change in promoting ground-breaking innovation

The new Horizon Europe framework programme (after 2020), presented by the European Commission on Thursday 7 June, wants to put the focus firmly on innovation, and if at all possible, on ground-breaking innovation.

Research Commissioner Carlos Moedas called for "radical change" in the way the EU encourages innovation. He gave assurances that in terms of the budget, the European Commission sees research and innovation as "THE priority" for the future. The proof is that, if one compares the budget of the current framework programme Horizon 2020, minus the

United Kingdom's contribution, the increase in the overall allocation suggested to member states – from €67 to €97.6 billion in current prices (with €3.5 billion from the InvestEU fund) is 50%.

As announced, the Horizon Europe programme will consist of three main thematic pillars funded as follows:

- €25.8 billion for Open Science, with €17 billion for the European Research Council, a pillar which has shown its worth through the award of six Nobel prizes and five Fields medals;
- €52.7 billion for the Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness pillar with emphasis on food, water, health and energy;
- €13.5 billion for the Open Innovation pillar, including €10 billion for the European Innovation Council.

The European Innovation Council will focus on identifying and financing market-creating break-through innovation and delivering technological advances for Europe. It will also work to foster the growth of start-ups in Europe, so that they do not have to seek capital in the United States or Asia. The Innovation Council will, then, provide direct aid to innovators through two main financing instruments, Pathfinder for the early stages and Accelerator for development and market roll-out.

One of the innovations of Horizon Europe is EU-wide research and innovation missions. These assignments, which will have clear, measurable objectives, will seek to include a wide range of stakeholders in societal issues, such as cancer research, non-polluting transport and removing plastics from the oceans.

Moedas said these assignments will help to inform the general public simply about the research and innovation projects on which Europe focus.

The Euratom programme, which supports research in the area of nuclear safety, will receive funding of €2.4 billion.

When asked about the possible involvement of the United Kingdom – the largest recipient of Horizon 2020 funding – in the new framework programme, Moedas said that Horizon Europe would be open to countries outside Europe and would make it possible for a larger number of third countries which want to cooperate with the EU to be associated.

The draft regulation establishing Horizon Europe can be viewed [here](#)

■ EUROPEAN AGENDA - JUNE TO DECEMBER 2018

JUNE	JULY	SEPTEMBER
<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 7, 18, 19 and 28 - Committee EMPL meeting 11 to 14 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COUNCIL 21 and 22 - Council of Ministers in EPSCO¹ 28 and 29 - European Council</p> <p>■ EFFE 27 - Bureau meeting</p> <p>■ FEPEM 26 - Congrès Innovation, Emploi & Domicile</p>	<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2 to 5 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg 11 and 12 - Committee EMPL meeting</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COUNCIL 1st - beginning of the rotating presidency of Austria 19 - Council of Ministers in EPSCO</p>	<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 6, 18 and 24 - Committee EMPL meeting 10 to 13 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COUNCIL 10 - Council of Ministers in EPSCO</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COMMISSION 24 to 26 - Active and healthy aging forum in Bilbao</p> <p>■ EFFE 6 - Meeting of the informal working group at the European Parliament 24 and 25 - Policy visits for the PRODOME project (Paris)</p>
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 1st to 4 and 22 to 25 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg 8, 9 and 18 - Committee EMPL meeting</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COUNCIL 18 and 19 - European Council 11 and 12 - Council of Ministers in EPSCO</p> <p>■ EFFE 22 - Orientation Council</p>	<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 12 to 15 and 28 and 29 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg 5 - 19 and 20 - 26 and 27 - Committee EMPL meeting</p>	<p>■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 10 to 13 - Plenary Session in Strasbourg 3 - Committee EMPL meeting</p> <p>■ EUROPEAN COUNCIL 6 and 7 - Council of Ministers in EPSCO 13-14 - European Council</p>

¹ Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council on social policy

■ APPOINTMENTS

COMMISSION

- **Yizhou Ren**, former press officer for competition, will join **Margrethe Vestager's** Cabinet starting July 1. Ren replaces **Astrid Cousin** who leaves to head DG COMP's state aid to financial institutions unit.
- **Jana Hoskova** is promoted to head of programmes sector at DG Justice and Consumers.

PARLIAMENT

- Greens/EFA group MEP **Claude Turmes** will leave the European Parliament to replace the Luxembourg Secretary of State for Environment and Sustainable Development, **Camille Gira**, who passed away.
- **Eric Andrieu** elected vice-president of the Socialist and Democrat group in the European Parliament. The Frenchman replaces his compatriot **Isabelle Thomas**, who has resigned. The group of Socialists and Democrats is the second political force in the hemicycle, behind the conservative right, with 189 MEPs.
- **Jan-Philipp Albrecht**, left the European Parliament to become a minister in the Schleswig-Holstein region in Germany.
- **Viviane Reding** leaves the European Parliament. She was twice European Commissioner and originally launched the new legislation on the protection of personal data. She has been sitting in the European Parliament since 2014. Her departure will take effect on 2 September. At the age of 67, Viviane Reding will run for the Luxembourg legislative elections that will take place in October and aims to become a minister. In Brussels, she will be replaced by **Christophe Hansen**. Parliamentary assistant between 2007 and 2014, he successively joined the permanent representation of Luxembourg and the Chamber of Commerce of the Grand Duchy.

SPAIN

- Nadia Calviño, the European Commission's budget director-general has just been nominated as economy minister in Spain's new government lead by new Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. Rumor say that instead of quitting, she has taken unpaid leave from her EU job.

OTHERS

- **Emma Navarro** has been appointed vice-president and member of the management committee of the European Investment Bank (EIB).
- **Irmantas Jarukaitis** from Lithuania and **Peter George Xuereb** from Malta were appointed judges to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJUE).

About EFFE

Created in 2012, the European Federation for Family Employment (EFFE) chaired by Marie Béatrice Levaux is based on the principles of: free choice of lifestyle and support of citizens in their homes; respect for the private home; social and citizen responsibility.

The EFFE (www.effe-homecare.eu) promotes and defends home-based employment within the European institutions: it is committed to bringing a model of social innovation to the service of European citizens through the services and jobs of the family at home, relaying the EU 2020 strategy for a "sustainable social market economy". Social inclusion is the keyword and remain at the heart of the sector as a source of economic growth through the creation of mass jobs and the fight against undeclared work.

Marie Béatrice Levaux (FEPEM) - President; **Andrea Zini** (ASSINDATCOLF) - Vice President; **Karmelee Acedo** (Grupo SSI) - Secretary General; **Anita Poutard** (IPERIA-The Institute) - Treasurer.

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