

PRESS RELEASE – EFFE underlines the crucial role of PHS in the Porto Social Summit

Porto, May 7th, 2021 - Honouring the invitation of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, EFFE – the European Federation for Family Employment & Home Care - brought the voice of **personal and household services (PHS)** to the occasion of the Porto Social Summit.

It brought together representatives of national and European institutions, social partners, civil society organizations at this high-level conference.

The latter have enabled EFFE to **highlight the decisive role of PHS workers in the face of the pandemic, which has severely impacted them.**

EFFE emphasized the fact that effective social protection must be guaranteed for PHS workers, such as every other European worker. The development of **policy measures, regulatory and legislative frameworks** that encourage the use of formal work must be a priority for EU Member States to tackle undeclared work still widespread in PHS and to promote the emergence of social rights for domestic workers across the EU.

Thus, of the 9.5 million workers identified within the EU-27, at least 3.1 million are part of the informal economy, and do not benefit from social rights.

EFFE strengthened that the adequacy of the strengthening of PHS with the social priorities of the European executive, particularly in terms of the rights of vulnerable populations such as children, elderly, or disabled people.

Family and household responsibilities are one of the main reasons for the 11.5% gap between the employment rate of women and men in 2017. Their **outsourcing to skilled workers** in exchange of a fee would therefore **strengthen women participation in the labour market and counter the gender stereotypes** that sclerosis it.

To this end, EFFE has used the conclusions **of the European [Ad-PHS project](#)**, which will have made it possible to take stock of the policies of 21 EU member states in the field of PHS and to send them concrete recommendations.

Finally, a few weeks before the 10th anniversary of the ratification of the ILO Convention 189, EFFE called on the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU to include the PHS sector in the reflections on the **implementation of the European Pillar of social rights**.

About EFFE

The European Federation of Family Employment & home care (EFFE) is one of the main players in the personal and household services (PHS) sector at European level. EFFE specifically supports the recognition and development of the direct employment model (also called home or family employment) at European level. The latter is characterized by a direct contractual working relationship between two private individuals, without intermediary, and does not respond to any profit or commercial purpose.

More information: <https://www.effe-homecare.eu/>