

Strengthening minimum income protection in the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond: Council adopts conclusions



PUBLISHED OCT 12, 2020
BY [EUROPA](#)

The Council adopted conclusions on strengthening minimum income protection in the EU with the aim to combat poverty and social exclusion during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council recognises that minimum income schemes contribute to the social protection of the most disadvantaged groups in society, including people hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. They also have a stabilising effect for the economy as a whole. The Council also acknowledges that such schemes help peoples' inclusion in employment and society.

The conclusions invite the member states and the Commission to work together to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights which highlights the principle that everyone lacking sufficient resources has the right to adequate minimum income benefits ensuring dignity at all stages of life.

Taking into account that it is for member states to design their social protection policies, the Council invites them to spare no efforts to ensure that their national schemes meet the recommendations of the EU and the International Labour Organization and function adequately to counter the negative consequences of the COVID-19 crisis. The Commission is requested to initiate an update of the Union framework to effectively support and complement the policies of members states on national minimum income protection.

The conclusions also invite the member states and the Commission, in accordance with their competences and national labour markets models, to address the gaps in minimum income protection and to use in the best possible way support from EU funds, such as the European Social Fund Plus and the Next Generation EU recovery

instrument.

The conclusions were adopted by written procedure.

Press release distributed by Media Pigeon on behalf of Europa, on Oct 12, 2020. For more information subscribe and [follow](#) us.

Press Contacts

1. **Eric Mamer**
Chief Spokesperson
eric.mamer@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 299 40 73
 2. **Dana Spinant**
Deputy Chief Spokesperson
dana.spinant@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 299 01 50
 3. **Elisaveta Dimitrova**
Head of Unit
elisaveta.dimitrova@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 295 88 38
 4. **Johannes Bahrke**
Coordinating Spokesperson
johannes.bahrke@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 295 86 15
 5. **Vivian Loonela**
Coordinating Spokesperson
vivian.loonela@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 296 67 12
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