

THE FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND PLUS

THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2026
10:00 - 13:00

MEETING ROOM:
ANTALL 4Q1

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS



EMPL ICM

Agenda

**Interparliamentary
Committee
Meeting**

Committee on Employment
and Social Affairs

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS



**European
Parliament**

With the support of the Directorate
for Relations with National Parliaments

Order of business

Thursday, 1 October 2026

Welcoming words by:

- **Li Andersson**, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Opening remarks by:

- **Stefan Olsson**, Deputy Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

10:15-11:45 Session I – How can the future ESF+ make a stronger and more tangible contribution to achieving the EU’s employment and social objectives: quality jobs, adult learning and poverty reduction

Keynote speech by **Lisa Schöler**, Head of Brussels office, Caritas Germany

Remarks by:

- **David Casa**, EMPL Co-Rapporteur on establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRPPlan] establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to quality employment, skills and social inclusion for the period from 2028 to 2034
- **Marius Humelnicu**, Chair of the Committee on Labour, Family and Social Protection of the Romanian Senate
- **Alberto Mayoral de Lamo**, Member of the Committee on Labour, Social Economy, Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of the Congress of Deputies of Spain

Followed by a discussion

11:45-13:00 Session II – What should be the main priorities of ESF+ during the period 2028-2034 to address emerging social and economic challenges?

Keynote speech by **Patrick Mahieu**, Vice-President of the French Food Bank Federation and Chair of the Northern Food Banks

Remarks by:

- **Marit Majj**, EMPL Co-Rapporteur on establishing the European Social Fund as part of the National and Regional Partnership Plan set out in Regulation (EU) [...] [NRPPlan] establishing conditions for the implementation of the Union support to quality employment, skills and social inclusion for the period from 2028 to 2034
- **Katharina Schenk**, Member of German Bundesrat and Thuringian Minister of Social, Health, Work and Family, Member of the German Bundesrat
- **Irene Garrido Valenzuela**, Member of the Committee on Labour, Social Economy, Inclusion, Social Security and Migration of the Congress of Deputies of Spain

Followed by a discussion

Closing remarks by:

- **Li Andersson**, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

Organised with the support of the Directorate for Relations with National Parliaments.
The hearing can be followed online: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ep-live>