



Strasbourg, 15 June 2023

CCS(2023)9

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL COHESION (CCS)

Abridged Report
Third meeting
15 June 2023

Hybrid Meeting – Corinthia Palace, Attard, Malta

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS) held its third meeting on 15 June 2023, in Attard, Malta and via videoconference. The agenda of the meeting is appended to this report (Appendix I).
2. The Committee took note of the opening words and welcoming address by Mr Jan MALINOWSKI, Head of the Department of Social Rights, DGI. Mr Malinowski informed the Committee about new developments at the Committee of Ministers level, notably that the Committee was likely to cease to exist after 2023. He noted that, through the social rights and Charter work and the activities of other parts of the Organisation, social cohesion would continue to be an important part of the work of the Council of Europe.
3. Members of the Committee reflected on the news about the future of the CCS. The Chair noted that the Committee had some indications about these developments. He stated that the knowledge and expertise of the Committee would allow members to contribute on issues related to social cohesion in another format and on other platforms. The Committee reflected on the importance of continuing to work on social cohesion under the auspices of the Council of Europe.
4. Given the new developments concerning the future of the Committee, the Chair suggested that the Committee submits a statement to the Committee of Ministers stressing the extent of work the Committee had delivered and the future areas where further actions are needed concerning social cohesion.

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

5. The Committee adopted the agenda and the Order of Business, as they appear in documents CCS(2023)1, CCS(2023)OJ1.

3. STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

6. The Committee took note of the concise information on matters of general information provided by Ms Margarita GALSTYAN, Secretary of the CCS. Particular interest was paid to the 4th Summit of the Council of Europe and the outcome documents of the Summit – the Reykjavik Declaration and relevant documents. The Secretary invited the Committee members to follow the event on the 6th of July to mark the 25th anniversary of the collective complaints procedure.
7. The Chair informed the Committee about his participation in different meetings and exchanges of views with different committees of the Council of Europe representing the CCS.

4. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY: A REVIEW OF DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS IN EUROPE

8. The final draft of the Report on The Transition to a Green Economy: A Review of Distributional Effects in Europe was presented by Mr Philip von Brockdorff, the author.
9. The Committee exchanged views on the draft report, as it appears in document CCS(2023)4. The draft report was positively received and adopted by the Committee subject to including additional references (in footnotes) to the European Social Charter and the case-law of the European Committee of Social Rights.

5. REVIEW OF PROGRESS: WORK PLAN FOR 2022-2023

10. The Committee took note of the Progress Review of the Work Plan for 2022-2023, as it appears in document CCS(2023)3-rev.
11. The Committee noted the success of the Conference on "Transition of Jobs, Changing Labour Markets and the Impact on Social Cohesion" (Appendix II)

6. ELECTIONS OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

12. Upon the suggestion of members, the Committee unanimously agreed to prolong the mandate of Mr Joe GERADA (Malta) as Chair and Ms Rita Skrebiškienė (Lithuania) as Vice-Chair of the CCS.

7. TOUR DU TABLE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL COHESION

13. In addition to the document reflecting recent developments in member States, the Committee took note of the oral presentations by the Committee members on recent developments in the field of social cohesion and social rights in their respective countries.
14. The Committee suggested that members send written contributions on any developments in their respective States for inclusion in document CCS(2023)5-rev by 30 June 2023.
15. The Committee decided that for the following meeting, the country reports, would, inter alia, focus on good practices concerning the green transition.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16. In addition to the statement mentioned in paragraph 4 above, in light of the discussions regarding the discontinuation of the CCS, the Chair proposed a draft text to be submitted to the Committee of Ministers for consideration and possible adoption: Declaration on Social Cohesion at the Crossroads. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Chair.
17. The Committee discussed the draft Declaration as prepared by the Bureau. The Chair invited members of the Committee to provide their written feedback on the draft Declaration by 14 July 2023.

9. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CCS MEETING

18. The Committee agreed to the proposal of the Chair to hold the next CCS meeting on 9 November 2023 in Strasbourg, France.

10. ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT

19. The Committee adopted the draft abridged report as it appears in document CCS(2023)9.

Appendix I

Strasbourg, 15 June 2023

CCS(2023)OJ1

**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL COHESION
(CCS)**

**Third meeting
ANNOTATED AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS
15 June 2023**

Opening of the meeting: Thursday, 15 June at 9:00 (CET)

Closing of the meeting: Thursday, 15 June at 17:30 (CET)

Hybrid Meeting – Corinthia Palace, Attard, Malta

DRAFT ORDER OF BUSINESS

THURSDAY 15 June 2023

9:00-12:30	Items: 1,2,3,4,5,6
14:00-17:30	Items: 7,8,9,10

THURSDAY 15 June 2023 (9:00-17:30 CET)

9:00-10:00

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

Introductory and welcoming address by **MR Joe GERADA**, Chair of the CCS

Introductory and welcoming address by **Mr Jan MALINOWSKI**, Head of the Department of Social Rights, Directorate of Human Rights, DGI

2. ADOPTION OF THE DRAFT AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

Documents: CCS(2023)1, CCS(2023)OJ1

Action: *The Committee is invited to adopt the draft agenda and order of business.*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee adopted the agenda as it appears in document, CCS(2023)1, CCS(2023)OJ1 and the order of business.

3. STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT

Brief presentation on matters of general interest by **Mrs Margarita GALSTYAN**, Secretary of the CCS

Action: *The Committee is invited to take note of the information provided by the Secretariat*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee took note of the information on matters of general interest provided by the Secretariat.

10:00_11:00

4. APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY: A REVIEW OF DISTRIBUTIONAL EFFECTS IN EUROPE

Document: CCS(2023)4

Mr Philip von Brockdorff, CoE Consultant will present the final draft report on the Transition to a Green Economy – A Review of Distributional Effects in Europe.

Action: *The Committee is invited to proceed to a final exchange of views on the Report on the Transition to a Green Economy – A Review of Distributional Effects in Europe, with a possibility to approve it.*

Proposed draft decision

- *The Committee approved the Report on the Transition to a Green Economy – A Review of Distributional Effects in Europe*

11:00-11:40

5. REVIEW OF PROGRESS: WORK PLAN FOR 2022-2023

Document: CCS(2023)3-rev

The Secretary will present a progress review of the work plan for 2022-2023.

Action: *The Committee is invited to take note of the progress review and exchange views on the action plan 2022-2023.*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee:

- *took note of the progress review of the work plan for 2022-2023*
- *exchanged views on the action plan 2022-2023 and suggested...*

11:40-12:30

6. ELECTIONS OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Committee will elect the Chair and Vice-Chair. The elections will be in secret ballot (physical and on-line, via Zoom platform)

Action: *The Committee is invited to vote to elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee elected:

- Chair*
- Vice-Chair*

14:00-17:30

7. TOUR DU TABLE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF SOCIAL COHESION

Document : CCS(2023)5-rev

a. Recent developments within the Council of Europe

The Secretary will inform the CCS about important developments concerning social cohesion. Complementary topical concise information to the written document on this issue, if particularly relevant for the CCS, will be given by representatives of bodies/committees of the Council of Europe.

b. Recent developments in Member States

Complementary topical concise information, if particularly relevant for the CCS, will be given by representatives of member States.

Action: *The Committee is invited to take note of relevant developments in the field of social cohesion / social rights.*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee took note of the information on developments in the field of social cohesion / social rights as presented in the document CCS(2023)5-rev and orally by the representatives of bodies/committees of the Council of Europe and member States

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Delegations are kindly asked to indicate any issues they may wish to raise under this item, at the beginning of the meeting when the CCS adopts its agenda.

Proposed draft decision

The Committee took note of ...

9. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT CCS MEETING

The next CCS meeting will take place in hybrid or fully in person on ... 2023 in Strasbourg, France.

Proposed draft decision

The Committee took note of the suggestion and agreed that the next meeting will take place on ... in Strasbourg, France. .

10. ADOPTION OF THE ABRIDGED REPORT

Document: CCS(2023)6

Action: *The Committee is invited to adopt the draft abridged report as it appears in document CCS(2023)6 (to be issued).*

Proposed draft decision

The Committee adopted the draft abridged report as it appears in document CCS(2023)6.

Conference

Transition of Jobs: Changing Labour Markets and the Impact on Social Cohesion

Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta and Council of Europe, European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS)

*14 June 2023
Corinthia Palace, Attard, Malta*

Concept Note

European nations face new challenges as a result of recent developments across the continent and globally. On the one hand, new risks stem from digitalisation and IT developments and, on the other, from the transition to a green economy - a formidable challenge for the whole continent. These new developments have a particular impact on the labour market, which is undergoing significant transformations.

The development of online work platforms and the increased prevalence of atypical work are among the most vivid examples of digital transformation in the field of labour. They have brought to the fore the challenges for the realisation of workers' labour rights as well as their legal access to and enjoyment of a range of rights guaranteed under the Charter. This includes, not least, the right to social security under Article 12 of the Charter. As workers become increasingly dependent on technologies, the challenges of access to digital technologies and digital literacy are becoming increasingly evident. Furthermore, robotisation and the increased use of artificial intelligence are widely questioning the need for skilled and expert labour raising strategic and ethical questions.

There is a pressing need to take all necessary steps to ensure that all workers engaged in the new forms of employment, be it a platform work or other, have a corresponding legal status (employee, self-employed or other categories); that their status is in line with the actual situation to avoid abuse (such as the use of "bogus" or "false" self-employed status to circumvent the applicable social security regulations) and confer adequate social security rights as guaranteed by Article 12 of the Charter on the platform workers and atypical workers concerned.

At the same time, both the post-pandemic recovery and the energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine open up opportunities for ambitious public policies on the transition to a green economy. This transition will likely impact millions of workers across Europe and worldwide. Along with new opportunities, the positive impact on the quality of jobs, and the promotion of social security for employees, the risks of the transition may span many dimensions, including job losses and employment transitions, as well as risks for the protection of basic social rights.

In order to respond to changing labour market's demands, social and labour market policies for enterprises and workers will have to be adapted to new realities. Therefore, to fully realise

the employment and social potential of the transition, the challenges accompanying the transition of jobs vis-à-vis the green economy should not be overlooked. In this regard due consideration could be given to flexicurity, when elaborating new labour policies. Furthermore, the just transition will require adequate and sustainable social protection in employment, as well as for job losses and displacement for those effected by the transition.

Social rights are, by definition, about people's survival, well-being, and flourishing. Therefore, the understanding and implementation of these rights must adapt to the ever-changing realities of rights bearers. There is frequently a time lag between the emergence of new issues on the ground and the introduction of the legislative and administrative measures necessary to address those issues' impact on social rights and, ultimately, social cohesion.

In view of the importance of these developments, the Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta and the Council of Europe, under the auspices of the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS), are organising a Conference with a focus on the transition of jobs. The Conference aims to bring together national policymakers, civil servants, and other stakeholders to provide a forum for exchanging views and good practices among Member States of the Council of Europe.

Objective

The main objective of the Conference is to discuss the changing dynamics of the labour market caused by the transition of jobs, the development of the platform and atypical work, and the impact on social rights and social cohesion and to suggest possible policy-level responses to mitigate the social and economic consequences. It will consist of three successive panel sessions.

- Panel Session 1: Transition of jobs: increased use of AI - strategic and ethical issues around it

During the first session, the discussions will focus on the effects of the transition of jobs. Namely, (i) the impact of digitalisation on platform workers and "atypical workers," and (ii) challenges for skilled workers stemming from the increased use of artificial intelligence, including strategic and ethical issues around AI.

- Panel Session 2: Transition of jobs: transition to a green economy

During the second session, the participants will be provided with a platform for discussions about the (i) transition of jobs vis-à-vis a green economy and the link between environmental and labour policies in relation to social policies. The Conference will also focus on (ii) guarantees of social protection for those who will be affected by the transition to a green economy. (iii) What arrangements should be put in place to embrace a win-win (for all) approach. who benefits from the positive changes and the gains that are happening and will happen.

- Panel Session 3: Transition of jobs: access to the labour market

Given the effects of digitalisation and IT developments, as well as the transition to a green economy, during the third session, the participants of the Conference will be invited to discuss (i) challenges related to access to the labour market for persons in vulnerable situations. In addition, (ii) the Conference will touch upon different models of economic activities, such as self-employment and social entrepreneurship and social guarantees for those.

Conference

“Transition of Jobs: Changing Labour Markets and the Impact on Social Cohesion”

Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta

and

Council of Europe, European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS)

14 June 2023, 9.30 – 17.00

Corinthia Palace, Attard, Malta

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87390251001?pwd=OTdsNzNpUTZTNnB4bnZUcUNlOFIMdz09>

Meeting ID: 873 9025 1001
Passcode: 801475

PROGRAMME

9:00-9:30 **Registration of the participants**

9:30-10:00 **Opening and Welcome Address**

Mr Joe GERADA, Chairperson of the Social Cohesion Committee of the Council of Europe and Advisor to the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta (in person)

Dr Andy ELLUL, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Dialogue, within the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta (in person)

Dr Michael FALZON, Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights of Malta (in person)

Mr Jan MALINOWSKI, Head of the Social Rights Department, Directorate of Human Rights, DGI, Council of Europe (in person)

10:00-11:15 **Panel Session 1: Transition of jobs: increased use of AI and strategic and ethical issues around it**

The labour market is undergoing significant transformations due to digitalisation and IT developments. These new developments pose challenges to the realisation of workers' labour rights and their legal access to and enjoyment of a range of other rights guaranteed under the Charter. This brings to the fore the questions that arise around the effects of the transition: What is the impact of digitalisation on platform workers and "atypical workers"? How to prevent abuse of labour and other social rights for workers in new forms of employment? What are the challenges for skilled workers stemming from the increased use of artificial intelligence, including strategic and ethical issues? What possible policy responses could address these new challenges?

Moderator:

Mr Joe GERADA, Advisor to the Minister for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Ministry for Social Policy and Children's Rights, Malta, and Chair of the European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS) (in person)

Speakers:

Mr Mario VINKOVIĆ, Professor of labour law and social security, Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in EU Labour, Equality and Human Rights Law (2013-2016), Faculty of Law, University of Osijek, Croatia, member of the European Committee of Social Rights (online)

Dr. Valeria PULIGNANO, Professor in Sociology at the Centre for Sociological Research (CESO) - KU Leuven (online)

Mr Stefan GRAN, Senior Policy Advisor, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) (in person)

Ms Angelica SALVI DEL PERO, Senior Advisor to Director for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (OECD) (in person)

11:15-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-12:45 Panel Session 2: Transition of jobs: transition to a green economy

The energy crisis that erupted in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine has put the question of energy supplies in the global spotlight. This goes hand in hand with the broader questions on climate change and underlines the need to think with the consideration of the need to transition to a green economy to make our societies more environmentally resilient: How does the transition to a green economy affect the labour market? What are the challenges for workers' access and enjoyment of their rights brought about by the transition? How to ensure environmentally sustainable progress during the transition through labour market policies? What major policy decisions are required from Member States to guarantee social protection for those affected by the transition to a green economy? Are current arrangements forgetting a win-win (for all) approach and leading too often to winner-takes-all (for those on the winning side, progressively winning more and broadening the wealth and social divide).

Moderator:

Mr Jerzy CIECHANSKI, Counselor at the International Cooperation Department Ministry of the Family & Social Policy, Poland, Member of the European Committee of Social Cohesion (CCS) (in person)

Speakers:

Dr Philip VON BROCKDORFF, Professor, Council of Europe consultant (online)

Mr David XUEREB, Chairperson of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development (in person)

Mr Bela GALGOCZI, Senior research officer at the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) (in person)

12:45-14:30 Lunch Break

14:30-15:45 Panel Session 3: Transition of jobs: access to the labour market

Effects of digitalisation and IT developments, as well as the transition to a green economy, are likely to vary from country to country, region to region, depending on economic and social variables and vulnerabilities of particular groups. This raises the

following questions: In light of these developments, what challenges do people in vulnerable situations face when accessing the labour market? How do the green transition and digital developments affect different models of economic activities, such as self-employment and social entrepreneurship? What are the challenges in terms of receiving social guarantees for them? What are possible policy responses that could address these new challenges?

Moderator:

Mr Riccardo VENTURINI, Expert Secretariat of State for Health and Social Security; Member of the UN CSD Commission; Member of European Committee for Social Cohesion (CCS), San Marino (in person)

Speakers:

Mr Lars ENGSTED, Team Leader, Future of Work, Youth Employment Unit, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL) European Commission (online)

Mr Christophe SENTÉ, Fellow at the Centre d'Etude de la vie politique at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (in person)

Ms Katerina CHAROKOPOU, Greek National Commission for Human Rights, Co-Chair of ENNHRI's Economic, social and cultural rights Working Group (in person)

Mr Piotr SADOWSKI, Secretary General of Volonteuropé, President of the Social Platform and member of the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs (in person)

15:45-16:15 **Closing of the Conference**

19 :00 **Gala Dinner**