



THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER – A PILLAR OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Together with the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Social Charter embodies the best of the European democratic and social model. It sets out the fundamental social and economic rights necessary to guarantee human dignity and social protection for all, particularly workers and the most vulnerable: older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and children.

MONITORING & CONTROL SYSTEM

3 BODIES



→ ECSR European Committee of Social Rights 15 independent members

- ▶ analyses national laws and policies
- ▶ examines compliance in the States Parties with the Charter through two mechanisms:
 - 📄 collective complaints
 - 📄 reporting system
- ▶ provides analytical reviews on challenges
 - 📄 ad hoc reports

→ GC Governmental Committee Representatives of the 42 States Parties to the Charter and observers from the European social partners

- ▶ coordinates policy between States
- ▶ prepares CM decisions as part of the reporting procedure

→ CM Committee of Ministers 46 Ministers of Foreign Affairs' deputies

- 📄 formal recommendations to States

RIGHTS GUARANTEED BY THE CHARTER



Employment

- ▶ Right to work, just working conditions, fair remuneration, safety at work, dismissal protection and training



Social dialogue

- ▶ Freedom of association, collective bargaining, the right to strike, protection against trade union discrimination



Social protection

- ▶ Social security, social assistance, family and children protection, protection against poverty and social exclusion



Housing & Health

- ▶ Right to adequate housing and healthcare for all



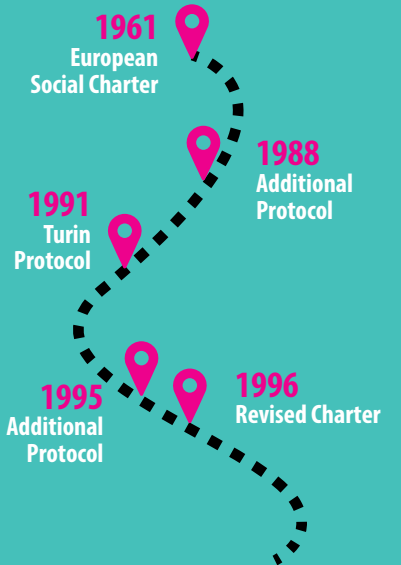
Equality & non-discrimination

- ▶ Equal opportunities, protection against all forms of discrimination



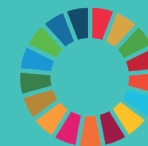
Education & social participation

- ▶ Access to education and vocational training, information and consultation at work



42 out of 46 member States

San Marino and Switzerland have not ratified any of these treaties.



The Charter contributes to the implementation of the **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

“Social rights as a foundation of resilient democracies and social justice”

PARLIAMENTARIANS: THE CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION RELIES ON YOU!

→ YOU CAN:

- ▶ **Promote** ratification of the Revised Charter and of the Protocol on collective complaints & encourage additional commitments
- ▶ **Hold** the government **accountable** for implementing the ECSR's findings
- ▶ Use the ECSR's findings to **support reforms**
- ▶ Adopt national **legislation and budgets** in line with Charter obligations
- ▶ Request **national impact studies** that take into account the commitments made
- ▶ Organise hearings and collaborate with **national human rights institutions**
- ▶ Explicitly **refer to** the Charter in parliamentary work
- ▶ **Inform the public** about the benefits of the Charter



Become
an ambassador
for the **Social Charter!**



Collective complaints

A political alert tool!

Any authorised NGO or trade union can refer a case to the ECSR to report a structural violation of the Charter

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RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FACE OF THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

1. Ensure wages and pensions cover the basic cost of living
2. Assist low-income households
3. Minimum wage $\geq$ 60% of net average wage
4. Universal access to energy, water and food
5. Adequate and affordable housing for all
6. Universal essential healthcare
7. Social protection for all
8. Reduce inequalities, protect vulnerable groups
9. Dialogue with social partners
10. Anticipate and respond to crises

And what about social rights at the European Union (EU) level?

Council of Europe

Revised European
Social Charter

European Union

Charter of
Fundamental Rights
and
European Pillar
of Social Rights

Most of the **98** provisions
of the Charter have their
equivalent in EU texts.

The process of mutual harmonisation
(Charter & EU law) must be continued.



More info
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