

Nicolas Schmit  
European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles

Brussels  
4 April 2022

Dear Commissioner Schmit,

We are writing you on a topic of urgency, hoping for your swift response.

In connection with the many people fleeing from the war in Ukraine and seeking shelter in EU-countries, it is imperative to ensure that they will not be exploited and abused when entering our labour market. Rather, it must be ensured that they are provided with the same wages and working conditions as generally applicable in the national labour markets.

In light of this, we believe that two actions will be key in the fields of social rights:

1. Fast, effective and comprehensive tripartite negotiations between governments, employers' and trade unions in the Member States should be undertaken, to ensure that the Ukrainian refugees are offered the same working conditions as local workers. Therefore, we urge you to raise the importance of tripartite negotiations or equivalent means to the Member States;
2. It must also be ensured, that any EU-funds released in support of refugees, including with regards to the integration into the EU labour market will be provided with the appropriate social conditionality and safeguards. This must include that no EU-funds intended for the help and integration of refugees are paid out to employers who does not comply with the applicable collective agreement or minimum wage, where those exist, as well as workers' rights, or refusing employees to unionise.

We believe that it is crucial that swift action is taken to ensure that the best possible conditions and safeguards are given for the refugees from Ukraine.

We therefore ask that the Commission will encourage Member States to act swiftly on the first of these points, while taking all necessary steps to ensure decent conditions for the Ukrainian refugees to enter to the national labour markets.

Furthermore, we urge the Commissioner to view this as an opportunity to strengthen national collective bargaining and social responsibility.

Looking forward to your reply,

Kind regards,

Dennis Radtke, EMPL Coordinator, EPP

Agnes Jongerius, EMPL Coordinator, S&D

Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová, EMPL Coordinator, Renew

Kira Marie Peter-Hansen, EMPL Coordinator, Greens

Nikolaj Villumsen, EMPL Coordinator, The Left