



COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

PUBLIC HEARING

22 November 2017

“Protection of the rights of workers in temporary or precarious employment, based on petitions received”

PROGRAMME

14:30-18:30

Room: ASP A3G-3.

“More than 1 in 10 employees in the EU are employed on temporary contracts, but a majority of them would prefer a permanent contract. Temporary contracts help employers to manage their labour demand, but there are downsides for employees, such as job insecurity and lower pay.”

Source: Eurofound

<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/news/spotlight-on/employment/the-rise-of-temporary-contracts-in-europe>

14:30-14:35

Introductory words by the PETI Chair

14:35-14:55

- Dr. Aristeia Koukiadaki, School of Law, Manchester University
- Ioannis Katsaroumpas, School of Law, University of Sussex

Presentation of the research study commissioned by the Policy Department C: *“Temporary contracts, precarious employment, employees’ fundamental rights and EU employment law”*

14:55-15:05 Questions &Answers

FIRST PANEL

Precarious working conditions in Europe in 2017

Moderator: Heinz BECKER, MEP, Committee on Petitions



15:05-15:20

- Isabella Biletta, Research Manager, Industrial Relations and Working Conditions Unit, Eurofound, Dublin, Ireland, co-author of *European Working conditions Survey – EWCS* <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/surveys/european-working-conditions-surveys>

Proposed topic:

Gender, age, education level, sectors of activity factors and their correlation with precariousness of work. What are the reasons that precarious employment is on the rise? Other than economic?

15:20-15:35

- Marek Góra, professor of the School of Economics in Warsaw, Institute for Structural Research (IBS), Poland, Study: *“Temporary employment boom in Poland – a job quality vs. quantity trade-off?”* <http://ibs.org.pl/en/publications/temporary-employment-boom-in-poland-a-job-quality-vs-quantity-trade-off/>

Proposed topic:

What are the risks of precariousness associated with different types of contract?

15:35-15:50

- Rolf Gleissner - Deputy head of Department of Social Policy within the Austrian Economic Chamber, expert on labour law and labour market, Vienna, Austria

Proposed topic:

How to make the job security and job quality compatible with flexibility needs? Alternative forms of employment are increasing: how can welfare systems support individuals in the future

15:50-16:00

- Neoklis Sylikiotis, MEP, rapporteur on *Rapport on working conditions and precarious employment* (2016/2221(INI)), member of Employment and Social Affairs Committee <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=REPORT&reference=A8-2017-0224&language=EN>

Proposed topic:

Addressing working conditions and precarious employment and ways to ensure effective protection for workers



16:00 - 16:30: Questions & Answers

SECOND PANEL

Zero-hour contracts, flexi-jobs, short-term contracts and their impact on the legal and socio-economic situation of workers

Moderator: Jude KIRTON-DARLING, MEP, Committee on Petitions

16:30-16:40

- Ian Hodson, National President of The Bakers and Allied Food Workers Union (BFAWU), Manchester, UK www.bfawu.org

Proposed topic:

Legal situation of temporary and other precarious workers (like those working under zero hour contracts or the so-called flexi-jobs); EU framework vs national provisions. The labour market regulations in different countries and their impact on precariousness.

16:40-16:50

- Kerstin Howald, representative of the European Federation of Food, Agriculture, Tourism Trade Unions (EFFAT), Brussels www.effat.org

Proposed topic:

Different forms of precarious employment in the fast food sector throughout Europe; what are the risks of unilateral change of conditions of employment?

16:50-17:00

- Business Europe representative, Social Affairs department, Brussels (tbc)

Proposed topic:

Business perspective on temporary/flexible contracts (tbc)

17:00-17:10

- Vincenzo de Michele, expert on short-contracts and case law, professor, Università degli Studi di FOGGIA

Proposed topic:



The principle of non-discrimination and measures to prevent and sanction the misuse or the abuse of fixed-term contracts in light of the EU Court of Justice case laws.

17:10-17:15

- Sergio Galleano, lawyer representing petitioners, petitions 0988/2016 and 1011/2016 on fixed-term contracts in public sector)

17:15-17:20

- Michael Ashbrook (petition 0178/2017, speaking on behalf of contractual agents at the European Institutions)

17:20-17:30

- The European Commission representative from the Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion DG (tbc)

Proposed topic:

Working conditions - fixed term work: how to achieve the flexibility in working time and security for workers? Prevention of the abuse of successive fixed-term contracts

17:30-18:00

Q&A and DEBATE

18:00-18:05

Concluding remarks by the PETI Chair