



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>

Introductory remarks

14:30-14:35

Opening remarks by the PETI Chair, Cecilia WIKSTRÖM

14:35-14:55

- Aristea Koukiadaki, School of Law, Manchester University
- Ioannis Katsaroumpas, School of Law, University of Sussex

Presentation of the 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*

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

- Iga Magda, Vice-president of the Institute for Structural Research (IBS) think-tank, Warsaw, Poland

What are the risks of precariousness associated with different types of contract based on the study: “Temporary employment boom in Poland – a job quality vs. quantity trade-off?”

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

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

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, United Kingdom

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

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

- Vincenzo de Michele, expert on short-contracts and case law, lawyer and lecturer, Italy

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.

17:00-17:10

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

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



17:20-17:35

The European Commission representatives:

- Adam Pokorny (Head of Unit EMPL.B.2)
- Roberto Carlini (Head of Unit DG HR B.1 "Selection, Recruitment & End of Service")
- Christian Roques (Head of Unit DG HR E.1 "European Civil Service Law & Social Dialogue")

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

17:35-18:05

Questions & Answers and debate

18:05-18:10

Concluding remarks by the PETI Chair