

PRESS RELEASE
ST 14331/14
PRESSE 524
Brussels, 16 October 2014

General approach on a EU platform against undeclared work

The EPSCO Council today agreed a general approach on a decision establishing a Platform to improve cooperation at EU level in order to prevent and deter undeclared work more effectively ([13667/14](#) + [ADD 1](#)).

The President of the Council, Italian minister Giuliano Poletti, declared *"Undeclared work unfortunately represents a widespread phenomenon which has a negative impact on workers, businesses and governments. I am glad that, during the Italian Presidency, the Council reached an agreement on the proposal for establishing a European Platform to tackle undeclared work"*.

The proposal envisages the mandatory participation of all member states in the Platform and a non-exhaustive list of initiatives the Platform can carry out. At the same time, Council's general approach ensures that the member states would remain competent to decide on their level of involvement in the Platform's initiatives. Member states could also decide what measures to take at national level to give effect to the outcomes of these initiatives, depending on their own priorities and needs in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work.

The Platform's tasks would include analysing policy measures taken until now, developing knowledge banks on different measures, and developing tools and handbooks for member states' cooperation.

The nature of undeclared work varies from one country to another, as well as the measures to tackle it. The Platform would allow the member states to learn from each other and would also give them the tools to join forces, where necessary, in curbing undeclared work.

The Platform would involve the social partners at EU level, both cross-industry and in those sectors more severely affected by undeclared work, and cooperate with relevant international organisations such as the International Labour Organisation and EU decentralised agencies, in particular Eurofund and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work.

The Platform would work on the basis of two-year work programmes, setting out its detailed tasks covering all aspects related to undeclared work such as labour law, labour inspections, health and safety, social security, tax and migration. It would also regularly inform the European Parliament and the Council about its activities.

This general approach will be the Council's basis for negotiations with the European Parliament.