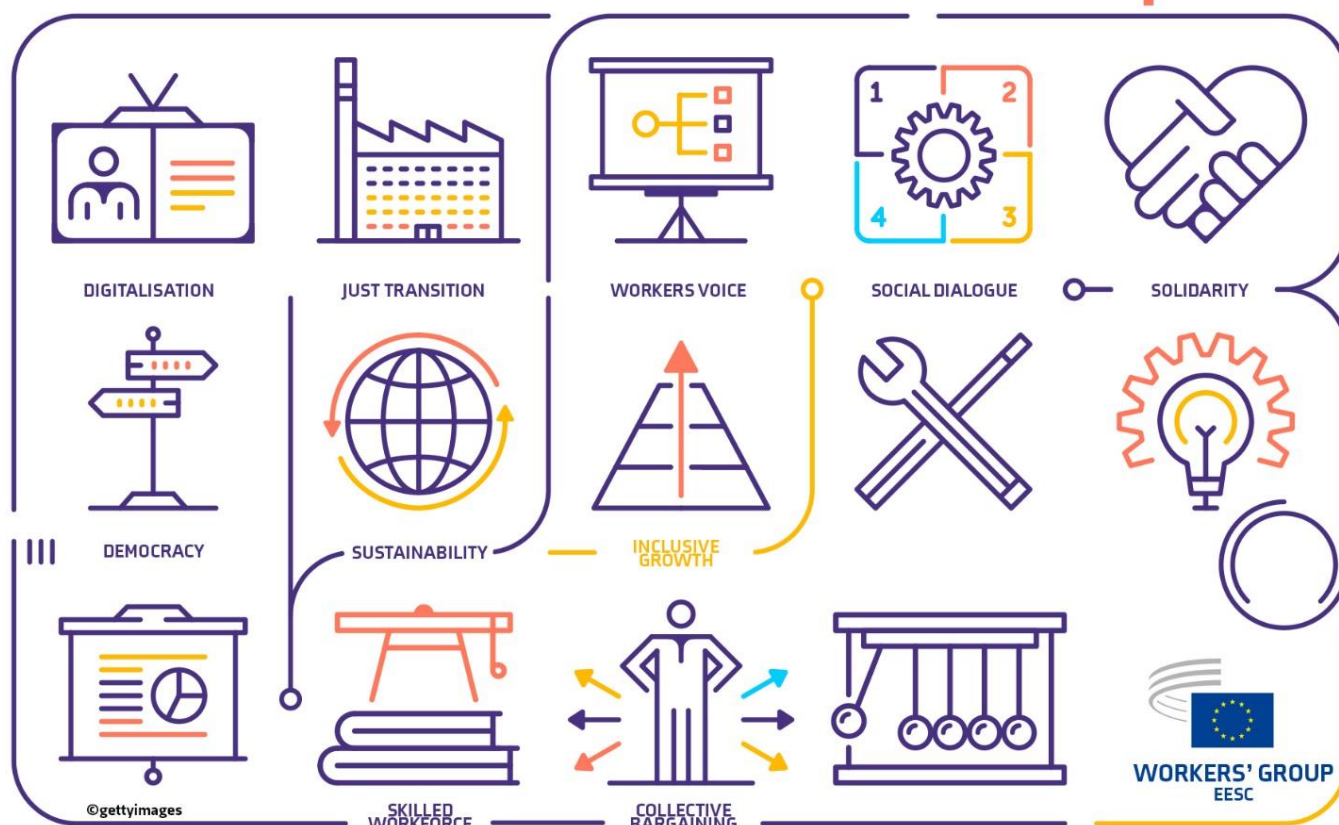


Challenges of Europe and Priorities of the Workers' Group



24 November 2020

The preservation of workers' rights must be top priority in any recovery and reconstruction plan in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, with solidarity as its guiding principle. The Workers' Group is organising an extraordinary meeting on 24 November to discuss the enormous challenges, which Europe is currently facing, and explore solutions to overcome them that place the preservation and creation of quality employment, workers' protection and social recovery on an equal footing with economic concerns, with a view to achieving a new sustainable social, environmental and economic model.

The Presidency of the Workers' Group will gather all the input from the members and guest speakers in order to define and update the Group's priorities, for the next five years and beyond, touching upon crucial issues of concern for the EU and its citizens, such as the growing poverty and inequality, working conditions and industrial relations, social dialogue, sustainability, fair transition and others.

Agenda

Active interpretation: EN, FR, DE, IT, ES, PL
Passive interpretation: EL

09.00 – 10.00	Test Interactio
10.00 - 11.00	Social challenges - Debate Introduction by Oliver Röppe , President of the Workers' Group Intervention by Cinzia del Rio , Vice President of the EESC SOC section
11.00 – 12.00	Future of Europe and Portuguese presidency priorities Keynote Speaker: Ana Mendes Godinho , Portuguese Minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch break
13.30 – 15.30	Economic challenges in Europe - Debate <u>Moderator:</u> Jorge Valero Introduction by Stefano Palmieri , President of the EESC ECO Section Keynote Speaker: Jonás Fernández , S&D MEP and Coordinator of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs Keynote Speaker: Aurore Lalucq , S&D MEP, member of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs Keynote Speaker: Prof. Colin Crouch , professor emeritus of the University of Warwick and external scientific member of the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies at Cologne
15.30 – 16.00	Break for interpreters
16.00 - 17.30	Environmental Challenges: the Green Deal - Debate <u>Moderator:</u> Jorge Valero Introduction by Peter Schmidt , President of the EESC NAT Section Keynote speaker: Frans Timmermans , Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Intervention by Lucie Studničná , Gr II Vice-President