

Statement on the European Pillar of Social Rights by Denmark
supported by Hungary and Poland

Denmark supports an EU focusing on delivering tangible results to European citizens in areas where joined efforts create added European value.

Denmark supports a socially responsible Europe that aims at inclusive growth. This commitment is based on the principles of sustainable growth and the promotion of economic and social progress, as well as cohesion and convergence, while upholding the integrity of the internal market - a Union taking into account the diversity of national systems and the key role of social partners, cf. the Bratislava Declaration.

Member States are the primary responsible for ensuring social progress and economic growth through national structural reforms and sound fiscal policies. European initiatives can and should not seek to replace national responsibilities in this regard.

It is in this context that Denmark has agreed for the Council to sign the inter-institutional proclamation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Denmark notes that a number of important issues have been clarified in the preamble of the Pillar. While agreeing to the Social Pillar Denmark would like to underline the following:

- The European Pillar of Social Rights contains no new legal rights or obligations but gives political guidance towards efficient employment and social outcomes in response to current and future challenges. The rights and principles contained in the European Pillar of Social Rights are not directly enforceable.
- While setting a framework for the work ahead, it should be underlined that the main responsibility for achieving good social outcomes and well-performing labour markets are primarily - and should remain - the competence and responsibility of Member States. The European Pillar of Social Rights does not entail an extension of the Union's powers and tasks as conferred by the Treaties.
- Furthermore, the competence and autonomy of Social Partners should be fully respected. Social partners at all levels have a crucial role to play in pursuing and implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights, in accordance with their autonomy in concluding agreements and the right to collective bargaining and collective action.