

Model European Parliament
2nd Mediterranean Regional Session Athens 5-10 October 2018

Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)

Dear Delegates of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,

The presidency and secretariat would like to congratulate you on your choice to belong to the Employment Committee. The issue of this session is the question of youth unemployment in the European Union.

High rates of youth unemployment have been plaguing the Mediterranean countries for several years resulting in major socio-economic imbalances. The goal of this committee is to find ways to combat this very pressing and relevant issue which directly concerns the youth of today and the economic growth of the EU in the future.

The following preparation module acts as a guideline and provides you with several links and sources for your research. In order to participate actively in the committee meetings and for constructive debate to take place, you are expected to be well-prepared for the session by going through the links and conducting research of your own.

A fact-sheet, which will include general information on the topic as well as certain graphs and statistics, will also be provided to all the delegates of the MED MEP. You are expected to study that document as well as the preparation module while preparing for the committee sessions.

We look forward to meeting you in the upcoming MED MEP session in Athens.

Expectations

Delegates are expected to have a thorough knowledge of:

- The existing bodies, initiatives and institutions combating youth unemployment.
- The fluctuation of the youth unemployment rate in the European Union and in their respective countries, as well as the reasons behind such fluctuation.
- The action that has already been taken against the issue by the European Union and the delegates' countries respectively.
- The process with which European bodies operate.

At the Committee meetings delegates are also expected to:

- Present previously thought-of and elaborated solutions to the specific issues at hand.
- Collaborate with the other delegates to write a general and binding resolution.

Key Questions

Several questions arise from the aforementioned issue:

- Is the current role of internships and apprenticeships sufficient to support the youth transfer from higher education to the workforce?
- What other measures ought to be applied to increase motivation and interest in youth entrepreneurship?
- For what reasons is the youth unemployment rate currently so high in Europe? What leads young people with potential to become NEETs in the first place?
- How can Greece, Spain, Portugal and Italy restore the standards they had before the 2008 economic crisis, meet their goals and reach the average of the European youth unemployment rates (YUR)?
- Can the European Union combat youth unemployment as a whole or should Member States have the authority to individually establish and regulate policies on the topic?
- Is the current definition of *youth* by the UN (15-24 years old) appropriate for the current social standards of European countries, considering that a rather sizeable amount of these persons is economically inactive due to their educational status?
- Is the preference for professions that offer a higher income one of the main causes of youth unemployment?

As a last step in your preparation for the session, you are strongly advised to compose a position paper (1-2 pages in a word document) which will be presented during the first committee meeting. It will include:

- Your country's position on the issue
- Some of your proposed solutions
- Some key facts from your research

Your Committee Presidency,

Diogo Quirino Monteiro, Committee President
Grigoria Fousteri, Co-Committee President
Maria Petraki, Committee President Secretary

Useful Links

- <https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/youthwiki/policy-fields>

The Youth Wiki site of the European Commission which contains information on Europe's youth policies

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1036>

The European Commission on Employment and Social Affairs' web page on Youth Unemployment

- https://ec.europa.eu/youth/policy/youth-strategy_en

The European Commission's site about the EU Youth strategy

- <http://ec.europa.eu/youthonthemove/>

The site of the currently cancelled Youth on the Move initiative

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en>

General information on The Youth Guarantee

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1161&langId=en>

Site on The Youth Guarantee by country which contains reports and factsheets on each EU member state

- <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1176>

The Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) which constitutes one of the main financial resources of The Youth Guarantee

- http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/142702.pdf
The conclusions of the Council of the European Union on promoting youth entrepreneurship to foster social inclusion of young people

- <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/2158244015574962>

Article detailing the five characteristics of youth unemployment in Europe

- <https://piie.com/publications/pb/pb13-20.pdf>

Article on the role of apprenticeships in combating youth unemployment in Europe and the United States

- <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2015/labour-market/youth-entrepreneurship-in-europe-values-attitudes-policies>

Eurofound's publication on Youth Entrepreneurship in Europe (2015)

- <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/report/2017/long-term-unemployed-youth-characteristics-and-policy-responses>

Eurofound's publication on the characteristics of long-term youth unemployment and the policy response (2017)

- <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/topic/NEETs>

Eurofound's site on NEETs (young people Not in Employment, Education or Training)

- <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2016:940:FIN>

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions investing in Europe's youth (2016)

- <http://ftp.iza.org/pp80.pdf>

Publication on Youth Unemployment in Mediterranean countries (2014) from IZA (Institute of Labour Economics)

- <https://data.oecd.org/unemp/youth-unemployment-rate.htm>

Website of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) containing statistics on youth unemployment for each country

- http://ftp.zew.de/pub/zew-docs/gutachten/RBS_ZEW-Studie_Jugendarbeitslosigkeit.pdf

Publication by the Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW) in Mannheim which analyses thoroughly the issue of youth unemployment and proposes solutions

- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0167629616302983>

Article on drug consumption and substance abuse in correlation with youth unemployment in Europe

- <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2013/05/08/why-is-youth-unemployment-so-high>

Article on understanding youth unemployment levels and reasons behind these levels

- http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Main_Page

Eurostat is a website on European Union statistics, containing detailed analysis of these statistics. It is also a good website to check for key terms, as it contains a glossary.