



EUROPA



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Social



Quality Jobs Roadmap

Executive Summary

The European Commission has announced that it will present a '**Quality Jobs Roadmap**' at the end of 2025. This initiative aims to promote the strengthening of job quality in the EU. The Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour (AK) supports the European Commission's effort to strengthen the prerequisites for high-quality jobs at EU level. From the AK's point of view, it is crucial that the 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' will not solely constitute a non-binding analysis. This initiative should consist of **concrete, effective actions** addressing these key areas:

- Job quality data availability must be improved, and job quality should be (more prominently) incorporated into the European Pillar of Social Rights' '**Social Scoreboard**' and the **EU 2030 social targets**.
- Ambitious and effective EU minimum standards are required to strengthen job quality – and their consistent implementation.

New minimum social standards should initiate concrete progress, particularly in the following areas: education and training, algorithmic management, health and safety at work, gender equality, 'just transition', combating wage and social dumping, unfair employment contract clauses, unemployment insurance schemes, a European Job Guarantee, health professions and live-in carers as well as public procurement.

- Several proposals in the framework of the current **one-sided deregulation agenda** contradict the goal of strengthening job quality and should be withdrawn by the European Commission.

AK's Position

Why an effective EU agenda to strengthen job quality is necessary

Strengthening the **prerequisites and framework conditions for high-quality jobs** is a key element in implementing the progressive principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights. It is, furthermore, vital for workplace respect and dignity. Key considerations for **analysing** and improving **job quality** include satisfaction with working conditions, adequate income and social security entitlements, protection from physical and mental health risks at work, workers' autonomy over working hours, their predictability and the burden they place on workers, sufficient rest periods and opportunities for regeneration, adequate staffing levels and company benefits, job security, access to training and further education, support for parental leave for male employees, employee representation and co-determination as well as enforceable rights in collective agreements.

A key source of data on workplace quality in Austria is the **'Work Climate Index' (Arbeitsklimaindex)**, which has been compiled quarterly throughout Austria since 1997 by IFES and Foresight (formerly SORA) on behalf of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labour (AK OÖ n.d.: [The Austrian Work Climate Index](#)). This survey covers issues such as job satisfaction, psychological stress, isolation in the workplace and career opportunities. A high overall index value indicates high satisfaction. The fact that in recent years the overall index value notably decreased several times indicates increased demands on employees. (AK OÖ 2025: [The Working Climate Index shows: Normal was yesterday – Flexible working hours are putting pressure on employees](#)). With regard to long working hours, about one third of employees in the 2023 to 2024 survey period reported working over ten hours straight at least once a month. 14 % experience this weekly. Frequently working long hours correlates with lower satisfaction with work schedules.

In this context, it is significant that **employment is distributed very unequally**. While many people face long hours and stress at work, others struggle with too few working hours – as shown by the large proportion of the so-called 'silent reserve' of underused labour market potential. Steps towards a noticeable reduction of overall working hours while maintaining full wages and staffing could set a new standard for 'healthy full-time

work' and lead to improvements in working conditions. Moreover, such measures may also contribute to a more equitable distribution of **unpaid domestic and care responsibilities** between genders. This is especially important given that the 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' risks neglecting unpaid work, which is largely done by women.

Moreover, a survey conducted by *Statistik Austria*, the Austrian public statistics authority, as part of the 2020 Labour Force Microcensus shows **significant health risk factors** that impair the quality of workplaces (Statistik Austria 2022: [Accidents at work work-related health problems](#)). According to this survey, approximately 3.7 million employed persons (including self-employed individuals) in Austria (representing about 86.4 % of employed persons) encounter at least one physical and/or mental risk factor in the workplace. Around 3.4 million of those affected (79 %) are exposed to at least one physical risk factor, and around 2.5 million (59.2 %) to at least one mental health risk. 13.4 % of all current and former employed persons reported at least one work-related health problem in the last twelve months.

Numerous corporate lobby groups are currently campaigning to ensure that the 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' announced by the European Commission is as unambitious as possible. Such demands are intended to distract from the fact that strong rights to good working conditions and social security contribute to **productivity in a 'high-road' strategy**. They also ignore the fact that effective rules to strengthen quality jobs help to avoid costs arising from **exploitation, precariousness and lack of protection**. For example, a study by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) (Leoni et al. 2020: [The costs of work-related accidents and illnesses in Austria](#)) shows that accidents at work and work-related illnesses in Austria incur total costs of around € 9.9 billion annually. The majority, namely € 8.95 billion, consists of so-called indirect and intangible costs, e.g. due to health-related absences of workers or reduced productivity.

For the success of the announced 'Quality Jobs Roadmap', it is crucial that this initiative includes **effective and concrete measures** – as well as a departure from the deterioration currently being pursued as part of the unilateral deregulation agenda.

Improving data availability and incorporating job quality (more prominently) into the 'Social Scoreboard' and the EU 2030 social targets

In order for policy measures to improve job quality in the EU to be as effective as possible, it is important to have **access to up-to-date and meaningful cross-country data** that measures different dimensions of job quality. One particularly relevant source of data in this context – alongside other surveys – is the 'European Working Conditions Survey' (EWCS) conducted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound). However, several years pass between survey waves. Conducting **more frequent surveys** would contribute significantly to accessing up-to-date, EU-wide evidence on the quality of work.

In addition to improved data availability, consistent monitoring and analysis of **job quality indicators is important**. However, the 'Social Scoreboard' of the European Pillar of Social Rights currently includes hardly any job quality indicators, despite 'Fair working conditions' being one of three chapters of the Social Pillar. It should therefore be expanded. It is clear that job quality is multifaceted and cannot be measured by a single indicator. In addition to several suitable sub-indicators, an index indicator can provide valuable insights into job quality. A 'good practice' example for measuring job quality is the aforementioned '*Arbeitsklima*index' (Work Climate Index), which has been compiled on behalf of the Upper Austrian Chamber of Labour since 1997 and contains a tried and tested set of questions on the working environment in Austria. The work of the European Trade Union Institute (ETUI) on the 'European Job Quality Index' also provides a valuable basis for the further development of data monitoring at EU

level (Piasna 2023: [Job quality in turbulent times](#)). Furthermore, analyses of the development of the relevant indicators must genuinely form the basis for transparent target tracking and evidence-based measures. Currently, the EU 2030 social headline targets adopted with the Porto Declaration do not include a target on job quality. We support current calls to **include** the issue of **job quality in the EU 2030 social targets**. It is also important that the achievement of the EU's 2030 social targets is supported by adequate EU funding.

In any case, it is essential that these indicators and targets are taken seriously – corresponding progress or setbacks must be analysed consistently and transparently in **reports at national and EU level**. In this context, the quality of jobs should be given greater prominence in the **documents and recommendations**

of the European Semester. An example of this would be recommendations to ease employee stress from long work hours and a lack of workers' autonomy over their working times. In addition, the pursuit of targets with regard to job quality should be addressed regularly at European Council meetings.

Effective EU minimum standards to strengthen job quality

In order to contribute to effective improvements, the 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' should include **concrete, legally binding initiatives** at EU level. This is also important in light of the fact that the European Commission Work Programme 2025 does not include a single legislative social policy initiative.

Strong minimum social standards in the EU can help to curb unfair competition based on poor working conditions and achieve common EU-wide goals in several areas. They should be ambitious and include non-regression clauses. Legally binding minimum standards should be embedded in **supporting measures**: in-depth analyses of social problems and the adequacy of policy responses in the Member States, impact assessments of policy measures, adequate co-financing for social and employment policy programmes in the EU budget and targeted recommendations to Member States.

In our view, new EU minimum social standards should be set in the following areas:

- '**Right to training**': **Effective legal entitlements to training and further education**

As part of the EU 2030 social targets, the objective was set that **by 2030, 60 % of adults should participate in training** every year. However, the EU is currently **far from achieving this target**. According to the relevant indicator, the proportion of 25- to 64-year-olds in the EU who had participated in education and training (excluding guided on-the-job training) in the past twelve months was only 39.5 % (European Commission 2024: [Participation in education and training \(excluding guided on-the-job training\) 2016-2022](#)). Without ambitious and effective measures, it is unlikely that this target will be achieved by 2030.

At EU level, the promotion of qualifications has so far been based exclusively on non-binding recommendations. These are not sufficiently effective. Within the framework of EU minimum social standards, **specific legal entitlements to high-quality, self-selected training and further education** should be enshrined. These should include legal entitlements to a **minimum number of hours per year for training and further**

education during working hours and to **paid educational leave**. In addition, jobseekers should have a **legal entitlement** to high-quality, self-selected **qualification programmes**. Public employment services should not prioritise the goal of a rapid return to the labour market over the goal of enabling high-quality qualifications (including for reorientation into a different occupational field) of one's own choosing. Securing livelihoods during longer training phases must be supported by adequate **income replacement benefits**.

- **EU Directive for using algorithmic systems in the workplace**

The use of algorithmic systems such as artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace not only opens up opportunities – it also poses significant risks to workers' rights. For example, **algorithmic management methods** are associated with considerable risks in connection to extensive surveillance, pressure, discrimination and violations of data protection.

In order to give greater consideration to the diverse power relations between employers and employees, a Directive on **algorithmic systems in the workplace** is required. This should go beyond merely closing regulatory gaps and also supplement existing regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation, the AI Act and the Platform Work Directive with protection mechanisms that are particularly necessary in the context of work. The Directive should include minimum standards for the design and use of algorithmic systems in the workplace, focusing on the principles of human-centred use of algorithmic systems and the protection of workers' rights.

However, in view of the challenges and opportunities presented by the use of AI, it is important not to limit the discussion of algorithmic systems in the Quality Jobs Roadmap to their application in the workplace, but also to analyse the **structural changes in the labour market**. In this context, a coordinated and harmonised **labour market monitoring system** should be introduced at EU level to systematically monitor and regularly report on **changes in the labour market related to AI**. On the one hand, this is intended to identify potential displacement effects at an early stage, and on the other hand, to observe the impact of AI systems on work design and thus on the quality of work. The European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) is already a suitable body to coordinate such monitoring. The JRC's 'AI Watch' initiative is already researching the effects of AI on the labour market, though not yet on a regular, continuous basis.

- **Stronger protection of occupational health and safety**

There are gaps in EU rules on protecting health and safety at work. Key risk factors are not covered, for example in the area of **digital technology use**. In addition, demographic change and the increase in **chronic illnesses** and **psychosocial stress** require a rethink – away from the norm of a workforce that is fully productive at all times. The Austrian Absence from Work Report 2025 shows that sick leave days due to mental health reasons are increasing year on year (2015: 9.2 %, 2023: 10.3 %; 2024: 11 % of all sick days) (Mayrhuber and Bittschi 2025: [*Absence from Work Report 2025*](#), p. 45 et seq.). Starting from a very low level, the number of sick days taken due to mental health reasons in Austria has quadrupled since the mid-1990s. Sick leave due to mental health issues tends to last longer on average (2024: 36.7 days) compared to other common reasons for absence. Overall, consistent measures are necessary to meet the EU's objectives, for example in the 'EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work'.

A new Directive on the **prevention of psychosocial risks** in the workplace should contribute to effective improvements in the protection of workers. In addition, the physical and mental stresses resulting from the use of **digital technologies** should be taken into account in the protection rules for workers. This also includes the ergonomic aspects of workplaces with digital work equipment, with a view to the increasing demands placed on the eyes and the musculoskeletal system. It is also essential that all types of disabilities are covered by the required **accessibility of workplaces**. Mental illness can also constitute a disability in this context and must be taken into account.

Workplaces and processes should be designed in such a way that workers of all ages can **work with minimal stress and strain**. The 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' should also take into account the increased risk of **heat in the workplace** in all sectors where workers are exposed to the weather. Improvements should also be made through provisions for more effective **control and sanction mechanisms** in the area of health and safety at work.

- **A new 'Gender Equality Strategy' with effective measures**

Following the expiry of the current Gender Equality Strategy in 2025, a new 'Gender Equality Strategy' for 2026 to 2030 is to be presented shortly. Numerous indicators demonstrate that **far-reaching progress is urgently needed** in the area of **gender equality**. For example, the gender pay gap – the difference between

the average gross hourly wages of women and men – was 12 % in the EU in 2023. In Austria, the gender-specific wage difference is as high as 18.3% (Eurostat 2025: [Gender pay gap in unadjusted form](#)). In addition, women disproportionately undertake the vast majority of unpaid care work and are significantly more likely to work part-time than men.

These gender-related inequalities **have a long-term impact on women**: in Austria, the gender pension gap in 2025 is 39.7 %, which is due to women's lower pay and unequal distribution of unpaid care work. Consequently, women aged 65 and over are also more at risk of poverty (19 %) than men in the same age group (12%) (Statistik Austria 2025: [Poverty](#)). Another consequence of the gender pay gap is the frequent increased financial dependence on a male partner and thus also the increased risk of being exposed to physical and psychological violence in the relationship.

The new **'Gender Equality Strategy'** must therefore include **ambitious and effective measures**. The new strategy is to be developed in a participatory manner, involving the Member States, social partners and civil society. It is important that gender equality is understood as a cross-cutting issue and that all Directorates-General of the European Commission are actively involved in the development and implementation of the strategy. In relation to the **Pay Transparency Directive**, it is crucial to **consistently implement** it in order to effectively contribute to the principle of equal pay for equal work. During the implementation phase, regular exchanges between all Member States and support from the Commission in interpreting and implementing the Directive will be necessary. Moreover, it is also important that the **horizontal Anti-Discrimination Directive** proposed by the Commission on the basis of Article 19 TFEU should finally be adopted.

- **An effective Just Transition Directive**

The **transition** to a climate-neutral European economy must be inclusive and contribute to **social justice and progress**. The concept of a 'just transition' must be brought to life: instead of merely reacting to foreseeable crises in the course of the transformation processes that are already underway, proactive planning and measures, including subsidies, are needed to train and retrain employees for the 'green jobs' and new technologies of tomorrow. Workers must be included in change processes from the initial stages and receive thorough information throughout.

The current financial **Just Transition instruments** at EU level – the Just Transition Mechanism and the Climate Social Fund – are **isolated, temporary measures**. However, what is needed is long-term and

adequate financial support for a socially just transition. It is essential that the 'Just Transition' is not reduced to mere technological adjustments. Rather, it is about societal planning in order to initiate a transition to a more socially and environmentally sustainable and just form of economic activity. This makes a comprehensive expansion of co-determination rights in the workplace necessary.

In addition, we support the European Trade Union Confederation's call for a **Just Transition Directive**. This Directive must make a decisive contribution to strengthening workers' rights to effective social dialogue, collective bargaining, information and consultation in order to shape changes in the context of transformation in a forward-looking manner in the interests of workers. In addition, the Directive should include **specific social rights for workers** whose jobs are at risk from the transition. The Directive should ensure that they retain their jobs or have the right to a suitable internal job transfer or to high-quality training or further education of their own choosing.

- **Stronger action against wage and social dumping**

Cross-border **wage and social dumping** at the expense of **posted workers** poses a massive problem for social justice – and for fair competition in the EU Single Market. Austria is probably the EU Member State most affected by cross-border wage and social dumping. Massive problems caused by wage and social dumping are particularly well known in the construction, road haulage and aviation sectors. Complex **subcontracting chains** represent another gateway for unfair competition at the expense of workers.

The European Labour Authority has an important role to play in this context. Seasonal employment, bogus postings and internationally intertwined subcontracting arrangements are examples of where the **European Labour Authority** can and should act as a catalyst for cooperation between the national authorities involved. The European Labour Authority must therefore have expanded powers for strengthening the fight against cross-border wage and social dumping. It should also be given effective **law-enforcement powers** in order to substantially contribute to the cross-border enforcement of administrative penalties in connection with wage and social dumping.

In addition, improvements should be made to EU social security law: in order to combat bogus postings more effectively, a minimum employment period of at least three months with the posting company prior to a cross-border posting should be required. Another necessary measure to combat bogus postings is to establish EU procedural rules that can be used to

effectively correct incorrect decisions made by the authorities in the country of origin. Courts and authorities in the country of employment are currently in principle also bound by incorrect posting certificates issued by the country of origin. The existing provisions for correcting these (Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 987/2010) have proven to be insufficient in practice. In addition, it should be stipulated that the wage entitlement in the Member State where the work is performed must be the basis for **determining the level of social security contributions** to be paid. Furthermore, the amendment to Regulation 883/2004 should stipulate that the obligation to give prior notification also applies to postings of up to three days. In any case, particularly in the construction sector, an exemption from the obligation to give prior notification for postings of up to three days should be rejected.

Moreover, in order to combat exploitation more effectively in the context of **complex subcontracting chains**, restrictions on subcontracting chains and mandatory joint and several liability in the subcontracting chain should also be established at EU level.

- **Protection against unfair terms in employment contracts**

Many employees in the EU encounter **unfair terms** in their **employment contracts**. These include clauses that shorten the period within which employees can assert claims, e.g. for unpaid wages. They also include clauses that unreasonably prohibit employment with another company in the same industry after termination of the employment relationship. Such unfair provisions may also **restrict the mobility** of workers **within the EU Single Market**.

In order to effectively strengthen high-quality jobs through an EU initiative, consideration should be given to unfair provisions in employment contracts that can undermine job quality. EU labour law is well suited to establishing **minimum social standards to protect against unfair and mobility-inhibiting clauses** in employment contracts – to protect employees in the EU and as a contribution to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

- **Minimum standards for national unemployment insurance schemes**

The quality of jobs is also greatly influenced by the adequacy of social protection against the risk of unemployment. **Adequate unemployment insurance schemes** also act as automatic stabilisers, playing a key role in stabilising the economy, and contribute to economic productivity by making it easier for job-seekers to find suitable employment. However, un-

employment insurance schemes are not adequately developed in several Member States.

At EU level, a **Directive setting minimum standards for national unemployment insurance schemes** should therefore be adopted ([Bruckner 2019: Common minimum standards for unemployment insurance schemes in EU Member States](#)). It should include minimum standards for the net replacement rate, the coverage rate and the duration of benefits. The Directive should include non-regression clauses. Article 153 TFEU enables the EU to set minimum standards in this area. Such a Directive would contribute significantly to social progress in the EU.

- **A European Job Guarantee to support the long-term unemployed**

Long-term unemployment is a major problem in the EU. Prolonged periods of unemployment significantly increase the risk of poverty or social exclusion. Moreover, long-term unemployed persons often face job application discrimination. The 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' should offer prospects for people who face particular difficulties in finding work by placing the legal right to a quality job on the EU agenda. **Evaluations of job guarantee projects** in various European countries have yielded promising results, such as the MAGMA job guarantee programme (Modellprojekt Arbeit-splatzgarantie Marienthal [*Model project job guarantee Marienthal*]) in Gramatneusiedl (Kasy and Lehner 2023: [Employing the Unemployed of Marienthal](#)).

New high-quality jobs should be created as part of a **European job guarantee for the long-term unemployed**. The fundamental principles of this initiative must be that job guarantee programmes in the Member States are developed in consultation with social partners, those affected at local level (the unemployed and the resident population) and other regional actors, and that participation in a job guarantee programme is voluntary. In addition, the jobs must offer good working conditions and appropriate remuneration. The **financing** of job guarantee programmes in the Member States should be supported by various instruments at EU level, such as social bonds and the EU budget (Theurl and Vorbach 2023: [EU Job Guarantee – a commitment to full employment and decent work](#)).

- **Minimum standards for working conditions for health professionals and live-in care workers**

There is a widespread and deepening staff shortage in **healthcare professions** across Europe. In order to meet the challenges facing the sector, particularly in relation to demographic change, **working conditions must be improved**. In addition, there is a need for European regulation in respect of working conditions

for **live-in care workers**. These jobs are often done by women from Central and Eastern European countries working via agencies who often face **precarious conditions**. Moreover, there are no EU rules on the recognition of qualifications for several healthcare professions.

A new **EU Directive** should set minimum standards for **healthcare working conditions**. For example, provisions should be laid down on maximum working hours and minimum rest periods, reference periods (with regard to working time requirements) and on-call duty, taking into account the particular stresses and strains of these professions. In addition, provisions on the methodology for calculating the required staffing levels should also be included. Moreover, an **EU Framework Directive on the protection and needs of live-in care workers** should also be established. It should define the fundamental rights and obligations of those involved in personal care: in addition to the personal carers themselves, these include the families or households in which care services are provided and the agencies that place them. A core component of this legal act should be that agencies that place live-in care workers must be registered in an EU-wide register and meet certain quality standards (Fahimi et al. 2020: [Improving Conditions for Health Professionals and Live-in Care Workers](#)).

In order to strengthen the Single Market, promote the free movement of workers and at the same time ensure more efficient and transparent recognition of professional qualifications, it is also necessary to extend the EU-wide harmonisation of the **mutual recognition of professional qualifications** under Directive 2005/36/EC to include additional legally regulated health professions. This particularly affects the advanced medical-therapeutic-diagnostic health professions (allied health professions), which are already subject to quality-assured registration requirements in Austria and for which training is predominantly provided at vocational colleges throughout the EU. This category includes professionals in the fields of speech therapy, occupational therapy, dietetics, physiotherapy, biomedical analysis, orthoptics and radiologic technology.

- **Embed social conditionalities in public procurement**

Common, harmonised conditionalities and principles of EU public procurement law must ensure that public contracting authorities, when awarding contracts, can or will be obliged to consider **both social and environmental criteria in the interests of a just transition**:

- Public contracting authorities must live up to their role model status by preventing wage and social

dumping in the subcontractor chain. This requires **limiting the subcontractor chain** to a maximum of one link and introducing **mandatory general contractor liability**. In order to secure jobs in the EU and against the background of global competition between economic systems, **strategic industrial-policy objectives** should be pursued in the award process by taking European added value into account under the best bidder principle.

- **Good work should be promoted within the framework of public procurement.**
- **Direct awarding** should be permitted up to a certain threshold in order to promote regional value creation. To create legal certainty, we propose a de-minimis rule modelled on EU antitrust law.
- Furthermore, by taking greater account of **regional criteria**, transport and travel distances could be shortened which would limit the associated harmful environmental impacts.

The current deregulation wave must not deteriorate job quality

A successful strategy for high-quality, good jobs must follow a development path that guarantees **strong and reliable social rights**, supports workers in their training and further education and keeps workers healthy and fit for work for a sustained period by improving working conditions. This requires, as a basic prerequisite, that there be no compromises in terms of the quality of jobs and the associated protection systems.

In this context, we consider the **current one-sided deregulation agenda** at EU level to be highly problematic. Currently, several announcements at EU level – particularly under the guise of supposed ‘simplification’ for businesses – pose a **threat to the quality of jobs**. In order not to undermine the intentions of the ‘Quality Jobs Roadmap’, the European Commission should abandon these plans. This is also necessary in view of the fact that the European Commission states in its ‘Call for Evidence’ document that improved job quality increases competitiveness by promoting competition based on highly productive jobs rather than low wages or poor working conditions.

In this context, the following principles, among other, are relevant:

No abolition of the ESF+ as a separate budget line in the next Multiannual Financial Framework and no provision allowing **existing ESF funds** to be **diverted** to strengthen the defence industry, as is currently being

considered by the European Commission. It must be ensured that sufficient funds are made available for social objectives in order to bring about real improvements in working and living conditions in the EU.

- No watering down of the provisions on the **posting of workers** which the Commission envisaged in its communication on the Single Market Strategy
- No creation of a so-called '**28th Regime**' that would harmonise essential aspects of labour and insolvency law for start-ups – and lead to the circumvention of legal standards
- No downgrading of the **EU Supply Chain Directive** (CSDDD) and the **Sustainability Reporting Directive** (CSRD) which the European Commission proposed in the Omnibus I package
- No watering down of the **General Data Protection Regulation** which was proposed in one of the Omnibus packages

The 'Quality Jobs Roadmap' offers an opportunity to make a fundamental contribution to improving the quality of work. It is therefore crucial to implement effective measures to make gainful employment not only more secure, but **also more humane, democratic and environmentally responsible**. A policy approach that addresses this challenge needs the courage to **de-intensify, to redistribute time, resources and co-determination** – and to **fundamentally reassess and reorganise the role of work in society**. The EU Commission has the opportunity to provide effective impetus towards these objectives.



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About us

The Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour (AK) is the legal body which represents the interests of approximately 4 million employees and consumers in Austria. It represents its members on all social, educational, economic and consumer policy-related issues at national level and at EU level in Brussels. Furthermore, the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour is a part of the Austrian social partnership. The Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour is registered at the EU Transparency Register under the number 23869471911-54.

The main objectives of the 1991 established AK EUROPA Office in Brussels are the representation of AK vis-à-vis the European Institutions and interest groups, the monitoring of EU policies and to transfer relevant information from Brussels to Austria, as well as to lobby the in Austria developed expertise and positions of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour in Brussels.