
Answer to ad-hoc social partner consultation

Creation of a new European Social Security Number

Introductory Remarks

In a consultation period of 6 weeks, including a Christmas/New Year break, it is difficult to draw up a comprehensive and detailed consultation response to a set of targeted questions. As a European umbrella organisation, CESI needs to give sufficient time to its member organisations to consider the subject matter and provide input before proceeding to a consultation synthesis contribution for the European Commission. This is why this time CESI can only hand in a general statement on a new European Social Security Number. CESI kindly asks the European Commission to give, in future initiatives, social partners more time to submit consultations responses.

General Comments on a new European Social Security Number

CESI agrees with the European Commission that there can be an added value of a European Social Security Number (ESSN) to complement the European Commission's initiatives on social protection for all, a new European Labour Authority and revised social security coordination regulations and the Electronic Exchange of Social Security Information (EESSI) system.

Already in its contribution to a social partner consultation on an EU labour mobility package in June 2015, CESI advocated an initiative against social dumping and exploitation of mobile workers beyond a revision of the posting of workers directive and the social security regulations 883/2004 and 987/2009.

In its position paper on the European Pillar of Social Rights of December 2016, CESI called for *“comprehensive and transparent portabilities of pensions and social security entitlements which follow workers during their career across employers and Member States to ensure that social security and pensions entitlements can be effectively claimed across Member States and that they are not lost ‘one the way’ as workers change employers and move across different Member States during their professional career.”* In the position paper, CESI also called on the EU to *“work for more transparent and clearer portability schemes in the interest of administrations and workers.”*

CESI generally agrees with the European Commission's description of the challenge for individuals and social security institutions to identify, prove and determine social security purposes across borders and throughout careers, given the wide variety of national personal identification and social security numbers as well as a mix of paper and paperless electronic communication methods and systems in and among national authorities. Regardless of the type of work and the place of work, benefits and entitlements of workers should be fully traceable. Access to information should not end at borders. It is central that the number helps workers receive an individualised service and counselling.

There could be either a new European format for national social security numbers or a new European social security number. At the technical level, a solution should be selected that combines effectiveness with transparency and, to the best extent possible, low administrative burden. Data protection from third parties/private companies and actors should be guaranteed.