

Seasonal and migrant workers in agri-food value chains

Workshop co-organised by the EESC NAT Section
and the SafeHabitus project

Date: **April 10, 2024**

Location: **VMA building, European Economic and Social Committee (EESC),
Brussels**

Policy Workshop (PW) in English and French.

Webcast via Interactio (with French translation – provided by EESC) or via
Teams (without translation).



Objectives of the workshop

An ever-growing share of the EU's agri-food salaried workforce is composed of seasonal and migrant workers (both of intra and extra EU origin), as highlighted most vividly during the pandemic. Such workers may find themselves vulnerable to abuses, with limited access to certain fundamental rights related to working and living conditions, and even lack basic services. The aim of this seminar will be to develop a strategic approach to address these challenges in a systematic and forward-looking way involving both policymakers and stakeholders at the EU level and to share the outcomes of the seminar with the EU agri-food [Strategic Dialogue](#).

This Policy Workshop aims to synthesize the latest and most relevant scientific research and practical insights from a wide variety of stakeholders. We will facilitate debate and sharing of perspectives among those actors and European policymakers directly involved on issues related to labour standards and living and working conditions of migrant and seasonal workers in the sector. By gathering the latest evidence, we seek to provide policymakers with the knowledge and evidence needed to drive positive change.

Programme

9:15	<p>INTRODUCTION</p> <p>Welcome and introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President of the EESC NAT Section, Peter Schmidt and President of the EESC SOC Section, Cinzia Del Rio (10 min) <p>SafeHabitus Horizon Europe Strengthening Farm Health and Safety Knowledge Innovation Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Meredith, TEAGASC (SAFEHABITUS project coordinator) (3 min) <p>Moderator: Alun Jones</p>
9.30	<p>THE SITUATION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN EUROPEAN AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAINS</p> <p>Chaired by EESC NAT Group III – Farmers group (Dutch member) (tbc - OSINGA, Klaas Johan Senior adviser, international affairs at LTO Nederland)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SafeHabitus analysis of the situation of migrant workers in EU agriculture – Yoan Molinero Gerbeau, Juan Castillo Rojas-Marcos (IUEM Comillas) and Carlos Ruiz Ramirez (Oxfam Intermón) (12 min) - Simona Cavallini, co-author of the EESC study - Collecting data on the situation of social protection of seasonal workers in the agriculture and food sectors in EU Member States after COVID-19. (8 min) - Lisa Jacobs, European Labour Authority – ELA activities regarding seasonal workers in agriculture. (8 min)



10.15	<p>PRACTICE – Best practices, opportunities and challenges in addressing sustainable food systems in Practice</p> <p>Chaired by Nicoletta Merlo, EESC workers group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private Sector: The Ethical Trading Initiative (8 min) – UK - Counselling services for migrants: Kateryna Danilova, counsellor on labour rights at the European Migrant Workers Union (8 min) – DE - Trade unions: Jean-René Bilongo, Head of the FLAI CGIL migration and inclusion policies department (8 min) – IT - GEOPA proposed technical speaker/employer on Member State experience (GEOPA to propose) (8 min)
<p>11.00 Coffee break</p>	
11.20	<p>POLICY DISCUSSION – Policy state of play and responses needed to improve working conditions of seasonal workers in agriculture</p> <p>Chaired by EESC NAT Group I – Employers member (EESC to propose Group I member)</p> <p>Challenges and objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gaby Bischoff MEP EMPL Committee (S&D-DE) (8 min) - MEP AGRI/EMPL Committee (EPP) (8 min) - Margaret Bateson-Missen, DG AGRI – The EU Farm to Fork Strategy within the context of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the social dimension of the CAP (8 min) - Gelu Călăcean, DG EMPL - Working conditions of migrant and seasonal workers – fair mobility in the EU. (8 min) - EFFAT – General Secretary Kristjan Bragason (10 min) - GEOPA – President Joseph Lechner (10 min) <p>Round Table (20 min)</p> <p>An interactive debate between the participants to the 3 panels around policy recommendations from different organisations with their policy recommendations.</p>
12.45	<p>CLOSING SESSION</p> <p>Chair David Meredith</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synopsis of key policy issues – Alun Jones - Next steps SafeHabitus – Maria Bardolet - Closing remarks – David Meredith





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