

Commented agenda -258/26-09/10/2026

ETE Committee meeting – Brussels, 20 October 2026

Morning session – 10:00-12:30

I. European Commission initiatives in the area of skills (Union of Skills)

A. Labour Mobility Package- Skills Portability Act- For discussion

- Presentation of the package with a focus on the SPI, Presentation by EC (tbc)

Martin le Vrang (Deputy Head of Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission) and Andrea Leruste (Deputy Head of Unit, DG EMPL, European Commission) will present the Skills Portability Initiative. A roundtable of questions and answers will follow the Commission presentation.

Background information:

On 15 September 2026, the European Commission published its Fair Labour Mobility Package. The package aims to modernise and simplify the application and enforcement of labour mobility and social security coordination rules, and ensure that mobility within the EU is fair, protects workers' rights against exploitation or disadvantages, while fostering a competitive and dynamic environment that thrives on skills and innovation.

The package consists of a series of legislative texts including the Skills Portability Act. In fact the SPI is intended to facilitate the use and transfer qualifications and skills across EU borders and simplify recognition procedures in order to boost labour mobility across the EU. The Act which also aims to attract and retain talent from outside the EU, consists of three separate binding initiatives:

- Draft Regulation on digital and comparable qualifications: under this proposal new and recent qualifications will be issued in a standard digital format as part of the EU Digital Identity Wallet, making them portable and easier to verify across EU borders. This will cover all qualifications most relevant for the labour market from secondary school to doctoral degrees. Qualifications awarded the 10 years before the entry into force of the regulation will be available digitally within 2 weeks, upon, request. Further, a mechanism will be put in place to issue older qualifications.

In addition, a new EU online tool in Europass - linking all national qualifications databases, will provide a simple and free service for employers and workers wishing to compare the

content of qualifications gained in different Member States. It is to be highlighted that whether a qualification gives access to a regulated profession remains a decision for the national authorities.

- Amending Directive on professional qualifications: aimed at facilitating the recognition of professional qualifications and speed up cross-border recognition procedures for regulated professions. In order to further boost professional mobility, common training frameworks(CTF) will be defined on the basis of common grounds existing between the Member States. As a first step the Commission has adopted a CTF for physiotherapists, a profession in which many Member States report shortages.
- (proposal for a) Directive on qualifications of third-country nationals (TCNs): the proposal will set common rules for recognising qualifications obtained outside the EU with the aim of attracting and retaining talent from outside the EU. To this end, it will simplify procedures through aligned documentary procedures, fixed deadlines, reduced waiting times and paperwork for both employers and workers etc. It is to be highlighted that the recognition of a qualification does not confer any right to enter, reside or work in the EU.

Overall, Ceemet welcomes the goal to remove existing barriers (be it administrative, redundant recognition procedures or others) that hamper the portability of skills and qualifications across borders.

As a matter of fact, MET industries suffer from severe labour and skills shortages, hence for us simplifying recruitment procedures for employers and facilitating cross-border labour mobility for workers, could certainly support employers in finding more easily the skilled workforce that they are in need of. In this regard Ceemet sees the SPI as a positive way forward. We also see the potential of the SPI in contributing meaningfully to addressing persistent skills shortages and supporting productivity, innovation and the long-term competitiveness of MET industries.

Likewise, we believe that the digitalization of qualifications which will be integrated in the EU digital identity wallet is a positive step forward in order to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications across Member States.

We highlight also that the fact that the vast majority of our companies are SMEs – hence the end result has to be practical, user friendly and easy to use.

Ceemet also finds that it is important to take into account that digitalisation can be complicated for certain workers who are less tech-savvy or for certain small businesses; we need to take all these factors into account, so they don't get left behind.

- Ceemet position:

Ceemet released a position paper on the Skills Portability Initiative, in April 2026, ahead of its presentation.

- Discussion:

Ceemet ETE will assess and discuss next steps as regards the SPI taking into account that it is a draft regulation and that it will be also discussed by the European Parliament under the ordinary legislative procedure. It is important to understand if the regulation will end up by putting more burden on companies.,

Ceemet will also agree on an advocacy line and decide how the position paper needs to be updated.

B. The Governance Model under the Union of Skills- For discussion

- Presentation of the Governance Model by EC (tbc)

Maya Ivanova, Policy officer in DG Employment from the European Commission will present the governance model that is being put in place to make the Union of Skills a reality.

Background information:

In the Commission's view, strong governance is required to make the "Skills Union" a reality; to this end, the Commission is currently setting up the following bodies:

- a European Skills Intelligence Observatory
- European Skills High-Level Board, that will bring together education and training providers, business leaders, and social partners, through a to provide comprehensive insights on skills to the EU policy makers.

Moreover, it is also relevant to highlight that as part of the new EU governance model on skills, on 9 March 2026, the Council adopted a Recommendation on human capital aimed at supporting Member States in addressing labour and skills shortages across the European Union, with the objective of strengthening competitiveness through a more skilled workforce.

This is the first time the Council has adopted a recommendation of this nature which will feature in the European Semester of economic and social policy coordination with the aim of addressing labor and skills shortages across the EU.

- Interaction between the national and EU bodies dealing with skills

Ceemet ETE is highly interested in gathering the Commission's views regarding the governance model under the Union of Skills and how the different bodies will interact amongst them and amongst other EU bodies that are not part of the Union of Skills such as the Fair Transition Observatory.

It is also important to understand how the EU's governance model will interact with the various existing national bodies responsible for skills policies (in order to avoid duplications and overlaps).

C. STEAM Executive Panel - For Info and discussion

Delphine Rudelli will brief members regarding the latest activities of the STEAM Executive Panel.

Background information:

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics) Executive Panel is also part of the said Governance Model. This board was launched on 11 September 2026. Delphine Rudelli has been appointed Chair of the panel by DG EAC (Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture).

The newly-appointed STEAM Executive Panel will advise the European Commission on ways to strengthen cooperation between education and training providers, businesses and other stakeholders, and help ensure that learners develop the skills for a rapidly changing labour market.

Amongst others the STEAM panel will:

- advise on how schools, universities, training providers and businesses can work more closely together
- advise on policies that support the development of flexible, adaptable STEM graduates for a fast-changing world
- identify strategies to increase participation in STEM and STEAM studies at all levels of education
- strengthen cooperation between education providers and businesses to increase interest and uptake in STEM fields
- contribute to the annual STEAM Education Outlook, helping translate the goals of the STEM Education Strategic Plan into practical recommendations and actions
- its work will also inform the European Skills High-Level Board

The panel is composed business representatives, social partners, education and training providers, and experts.

Being part of the board is of great importance to the MET industries, as Ceemet has long been collaborating with the Commission on STEM-related issues, offering our input and perspectives in this field. Moreover, we have consistently called for boosting investment and promoting STEM-related studies and disciplines across Europe. Indeed, as we all know, workers with adequate STEM backgrounds and STEM professionals are essential for the sustainability of our industries and for companies in the MET sector to move forward, remain competitive and successfully manage the twin transition

D. Upcoming VET Strategy- Update & exchange of views if any- *NEW AGENDA POINT*

The Commission is set to release its VET strategy as part of the education package in Mid-November.

Ceemet ETE experts will hold a brief exchange of views and share any information they have regarding this strategy.

Lunch 12:30–13:15

Afternoon session: 13:15–15:00

II. Other Initiatives

A. Discussion point: the 2026 PISA results – Presentation by Rodrigo Castañeda Valle- Education and Development policy specialist at OECD

Mr. Castañeda Valle will present an overview of the 2026 PISA results and the main key findings for Europe. A questions and answers session will follow his presentation.

It would be added value for members to comments the results regarding their respective countries as well as to discuss with the OECD representative the reasons behind the weaker results.

Members are also asked to share their opinion as regards the medium- and long-term impact that these week results will have on the industry and competitiveness.

Members may also refer to measures taken or planned in their country to address declining student performance and strengthen education and skills development.

Possible follow-up: ETE experts will discuss the possibility of publishing some kind of statement regarding the PISA results.:

B. Quality Framework on Traineeships – Update

Ceemet secretariat will give an update as regards this topic.

C. Quality Jobs Act – Update & Exchange of views

Ceemet secretariat will give an update as regards this topic. For the moment, Ceemet has submitted its response to both the first and second phase social partner consultation of the social partners on possible EU action to improve working conditions, health and safety at work and implementation of workers' rights.

The Commission will release the Quality Jobs Act in December 2026.

D. Possible direction of EU action on activation of persons facing significant barriers to enter the labour market- Update & Exchange of views

Ceemet will brief members regarding this topic. As for now, Ceemet has sent its response to the first phase consultation of social partners on possible direction of EU action on activation of persons facing significant barriers to enter the labour market. The deadline to submit the first-round consultation responses was 12th October 2026.

The Commission is now set to release the second phase consultation of social partners before announcing potential measures in this field.

III. Social Dialogue Education and Training- For information

The social partners have recently adopted a joint paper regarding the future VET strategy. Ceemet will inform members regarding other developments in the social dialogue field.

IV. EU funded projects- Ceemet involvement – Info & exchange of views

A. TRIREME - "Digital & Green skills for the Mobility Ecosystem"- For information

Ceemet secretariat will inform members as regards the latest developments in this project.

It is to be highlighted that the social partners are organising the second TRIREME regional workshop followed by a site visit (at VOLVO) on 3rd and 4th November 2026 in Gothenburg.

Background information:

The project Digital and green skills towards the future of the mobility ecosystem (TRIREME) focuses on the mobility- automotive ecosystem, in order to facilitate its transition towards a greener and more digital future by developing a comprehensive and sustainable skills and training strategy that addresses the current and future needs of the workforce. This project funded by ERAMUS+ programme was launched in March 2024 and will last until 28 February 2024.

As part of this project, Ceemet together with its trade union counterpart, industriAll Europe, is leading Work Package 6 that deals with the social transformation of the automotive mobility ecosystem in the context of the twin transition. Amongst other tasks, the social partners will:

- Analyse the social aspects of the transformation of the automotive-mobility ecosystem,
- Collect, share and analyse good examples of national, regional, local, and company initiatives and social partners' activities that have proven to be successful in tackling the social aspects of the green and digital transition.
- Compile and analyse "less successful" practices in order to identify what has not worked.
- Organise different workshops with mobility stakeholders in Brussels and in different European regions in order to present and collect the best practices on the ground and discuss the preliminary recommendations.

The regional workshops will serve also to gather relevant information on how the transition is taking place at the regional level.

Moreover, the social partners will develop policy recommendations and concrete actions that will be disseminated across the mobility ecosystem and addressed also to policy makers.

B. Skills4ADC+ - Skills for aerospace and defence community- For information

Ceemet secretariat will inform members as regards the latest developments in this project.

As ETE experts are aware on 21st October the MET social partners are organising policy roundtable to Exchange on the reality of transformation in the aerospace & defence sector. The workshop will be an opportunity to discuss specific examples as regards skills needs, training approaches for re and up skilling as well as the challenges and opportunities posed by the ongoing transformation.

The policy workshop will bring together representatives from trade unions and employers in the defence and metal industries, EU institutions, as well as experts in the field and other relevant stakeholders from other industrial sectors.

Background information:

The project “Skills for Aerospace and Defence Community” (SKILLS4ADC+) aims to reinforce Europe’s capacity to anticipate and respond to emerging skills needs in the aerospace and defence sectors. It supports the design of forward-looking, inclusive, and cross-sectoral upskilling and reskilling strategies aligned with key EU priorities such as the green and digital transitions, cross-industry mobility, and defence industrial readiness. Aerospace and defence sectors are key in Europe’s security, technological sovereignty, and economic competitiveness, but they are experiencing increasing difficulty in attracting and retaining talent, particularly in highly technical and emerging roles.

SKILLS4ADC+ responds to this challenge by strengthening the skills ecosystem for aerospace and defence through the development of evidence-based, scalable, and inclusive upskilling and reskilling solutions, along with a strategy to boost SMEs in this domain. The project leverages the experience and networks of 13 partners from 7 EU Member States, comprising leading industry players, SMEs, universities, VET providers, clusters, and social partners, all being members of the Pact for Skills. This collaboration will ensure strong foundation for joint actions reinforcing the Pact’s ambition of creating future-proof industrial skills ecosystems.

Ceemet is a partner in this project, in order to deliver the social partners perspective

V. AOB & next meeting
