

Meeting Minutes

LobbyNet

DATE: 22/09/2026

LOCATION: Ceemet Brussels offices (hybrid)

I. Draft proposals for legislative initiatives: update & next step

1. Draft Regulation on eDeclaration

A provisional agreement was reached on 23/06/2026. Coreper endorsed the provisional agreement on 30/06/2026. It was voted in EMPL and IMCO on 14/07/2026 by 84 against 6 with 2 abstentions. It is on the agenda for the Plenary vote on 19/10/2026. It will then have to be formally adopted in Council.

In the Communication of the Commission on the FLMP, published on 15/09/2026, the eDeclaration is mentioned as well.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will follow the next steps in Parliament and formal adoption in Council, scheduled to take place after the summer break.

2. Draft Directive on Traineeships

The file is still blocked.

On 8/09/2026, the Secretariat had a meeting with the Slovak PermRep and on 21/09/2026 with the Lithuanian PermRep. It seems unlikely that an agreement will be reached under the Irish Presidency.

In the short discussion, the following points were made:

- The Irish Presidency has scheduled two technical meetings as well as a political trilogue. However, if the Presidency feels there is no shift in the Parliament's position, the trilogue will not go ahead.
- The file could be part of the work program for pending proposals to be withdrawn, unless the EP will change its position.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will continue to follow the trilogue negotiations.

3. Revision of 883/2004 and 987/2009 Regulation

A provisional agreement was reached on 22 April 2026, after nearly 10 years of negotiations.

At Council level, Coreper endorsed the Provisional Agreement, followed by the vote in the EP EMPL Committee with 47 votes against 3, with 4 abstentions. On 6/07/2026 it was voted 511 against 87 with 61 abstentions in Plenary. It is on the agenda for adoption as a non-discussion point of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 28/09/2026. The Commission requested for two statements to be entered in the Council minutes, on better data exchange between member states for control, activation and job measures for unemployed frontier workers, and on seasonal workers.

The Communication regarding the FLMP states that the Commission will present a proposal in 2027 for further simplification and modernisation of the EU rules on coordination of social security systems.

In the discussion, a point was raised about the necessity to still obtain a PDA1 document after a business trip or short posting of three days.

ACTION POINTS:

- The Secretariat will follow up the formal adoption in Council and the publication in the OJEU and will inform the members accordingly.
- The Secretariat will double check the question regarding the exemption of PDA1 document.

4. IORP

At Council level, the general approach goes in right direction. In the EP ECON Committee amendments are more sobering. The draft report will be discussed in mid-September, with a vote scheduled for mid Oktober in ECON. The EMPL Opinion was disappointing.

Ceemet co-signed a joint statement of social partners with ECEG and IndustriAll.

In the short discussion, the following points were made:

- The joint social partners position, developed with Ceemet and industriAll Europe is not reflected in the amendments. No Social Democrats were supportive and only some Conservatives.
- Rapporteur Damian Boeselager (DE, The Greens) is moderate, but it does not look like he will diverge from his main positions.

The ECON committee vote will happen mid-October, EMPL committee opinion is out.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will monitor the IORP file.

5. CMRD6

This file is dealt with in the H&S Committee.

A provisional agreement was reached in the second political trilogue on 23/06/2026.

In Council, Coreper endorsed the provisional agreement on 22/07/2026.

In Parliament, the EMPL Committee adopted the provisional agreement on 02/09/2026 by 42 votes to 2 with 13 abstentions. The indicative date for the vote in plenary is scheduled for 6/10/2026. After the plenary vote, Council will have to formally adopt it.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will continue to follow plenary vote and the formal adoption by Council.

6. GDPR

In the context of the Digital Omnibus, the Commission proposes to recalibrate the GDPR by introducing that the right of access should not be abused. It also changes the burden of proof of the data controller by differentiating between the manifestly unfounded character of a request, and the excessive character of the request.

The following points were made in the discussion:

- Part of digital omnibus. Vote in 2 weeks in committee. Strange combination of amendments. Recitals of left. But art 15 is opposite.
- ECJ caselaw is on our side
- Gesamtmetall wrote letters to German conservatives, difficult to have meeting with shadow rapporteur.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will follow up the file and will take further action if necessary.

7. FLMP

The FLMP was launched on 15/09/2026. The position paper of Ceemet on labour mobility, adopted on 10/07/2026. President von der Leyen mentioned the FLMP in her State of the Union on 16/09/2026.

The Secretariat has published a first reaction on social media, welcoming the FLMP, while highlighting some points on which we have a different view.

DGB 'fair posting'. Grants for EEI also something?

ESSPASS: DE goes in right direction PDA1 in long run: inspection should be giving the means to check if a worker is covered. Now: obligation is made easier to digitally request a PDA1.

AT: Raymond Maes:

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will analyse the individual proposals for legislation. They will be followed up in the EU Committee and ETE Committee.

8. Public Procurement

The Commission launched a proposal for a Public Procurement Regulation on 9/09/2026. As it contains a chapter on socially responsible public procurement, these aspects fall within the remit of Ceemet will look into the social conditionalities of the proposal.

It is in the preparatory phase in the Parliament, pending final decision on referral to the responsible Committee, Committees for Opinion, and rapporteur.

Content:

- Public authorities spend around 15% of GDP every year on public procurement. It is therefore important to ensure that public funds are invested efficiently and effectively, that irregular practices are prevented that advances the Union's strategic policy objectives.
- The proposal has **two objectives**: simplification and targeted and Strategic Public procurement in the frame of the EU objectives: environmental, social, innovative
- Art. 5 defines "the pursuit of social justice, fair working conditions and an inclusive society, including as fostered by social dialogue".
- Chapter II of the PPA deals with socially responsible PP. Annex II provides a list of the ILO Conventions (social aspects: minimum age, discrimination, forced labour etc.) and international treaties (environmental aspects).
- Article 55 deals with socially responsible PP.

In the short discussion, the following points were mentioned:

- There overall is a trend of preferring regulations over Directives, maybe due to problems of gold-plating, difficult transposition agreements.
- Some national organisations would prefer a Directive, so they could adapt it to national contexts. Others prefer a regulation.

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will further analyse the proposal and write a note regarding the social aspects.

II. On the table

1. Quality Jobs Act (QJA)

The second stage social partner consultation of the QJA, was launched on 20/07/2026. The Secretariat sent a first draft response to the EU/H&S/ETE/AIWG members for comments, as well as a second commented draft. The final draft has now been sent to the GA for adoption. Ceemet intends to send its response to the Commission by the deadline of 28/09/2026.

Each of the topics of the QJA is dealt with in the aforementioned Committees and Working Groups. The Commission is expected to publish the Quality Jobs Act (proposal) in December 2026.

In the short discussion on the QJA, it was mentioned there is no indication that Council conclusions are in preparation on AI specific regulation (Cfr. Circular 227/26).

ACTION POINT:

- The Secretariat will send its response to the second phase social partner consultation to the Commission by the deadline of 28/09/2026.

2. Psychosocial risk (PSR), stress & mental health at work: Ceulemans draft report (INL)

Mental health is one of the topics in the QJA. The H&S Committee has worked on amendments on the draft report of MEP Ceulemans (S&D, Belgian) on PSR. The Secretariat had meetings with the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs.

On 12/06/2026 Ceemet co-signed a statement with BusinessEurope, SME United, EBF, ECEG, EuroCommerce, FIEC and Hotrec, and sent a message with 5 key points to some of the MEPs of the EMPL Committee. The vote in EMPL of 2/09/2026 resulted in changes to the draft report that make the text a bit more balanced.

On 21/09/2026, Ceemet co-signed a joint statement, The Secretariat will send mails to MEPs ahead of the vote in Plenary, scheduled for 5/10/2026. A Circular was sent to the H&S Committee with the kind request to also send it to their national MEPs and governments.

ACTION POINTS:

- The Secretariat will send mails to MEPs ahead of the vote in Plenary, scheduled for 5/10/2026.
- The Secretariat will continue to actively follow this file and align its advocacy with BusinessEurope and other European federations.

III. Implementation and follow-up of adopted Directives

1. Pay Transparency Directive (implementation 7/06/2026)

In the discussion the following points were made:

- Five member states have fully transposed, some partially, in 13 there is a draft text.
- The Austrian government will take stock at end of the year, to assess further steps.
- The French government plans to have a draft on 10/10/2026. However, it is unlikely this will pass in Parliament. Due to the upcoming presidential elections in 2027, Parliament will stop work in January 2027.
- Goldplating in many countries, including reporting obligations for smaller companies.

ACTION POINT:

- The transposition in the member states will be followed up in the EU Committee. The Secretariat will follow up the file and take action if needed.

IV. AOB

1. State of the Union

The following points were mentioned in the discussion:

- The 2026 State of the Union address focused on strategic independence, defence and technological resilience. It offered a proposal for Canada to become an 'associated EU membership' though no details on how such a membership status would be offered. It perhaps is a broader signal of how the EU will assess geopolitics and alliances
- Member States should stop goldplating: shift responsibility for simplification to member states.

- Careful with new initiatives. "Competitiveness" not mentioned.
- FLMP was mentioned. Remains to be seen if WLB would fall under the care deal?
- The Address offered little on the scheduling of the next UK-EU Political Summit. Expectations remain for a date in November 2026. The political changes in the UK over recent months and how London views its future relationship with the EU, has pushed the options for a Summit later into the year.

2. Non-paper on simplification of several MS

At the initiative of AT, there are currently 16 EU Member States who joined the launch of the Austrian State Secretary efforts to reduce bureaucratic burden.

3. Events

29/09/2026: employers' workshop on gender equality

30/09/2026: breakfast event on Skills Portability.

4. European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR)

The Commission published a Communication on the EPSR. There is no new action plan. In the EMPL Committee of 10/09/2026, the Commission said it will focus on implementing what it has already put in place and look at what else is required.

5. EU Inc (28th regime)

The German government accepted to include co-determination in EU Inc. France is also in favour of this.

6. Date and place of next meeting:

Hybrid meeting on **Monday 19/10/2026, from 14:00 to 16:00.**

Enclosure 1

Agenda

I. Draft proposals for legislative initiatives: update & next steps

1. Draft Regulation on eDeclaration
2. Draft Directive on Traineeships
3. Revision of 883/2004 and 987/2009 Regulations
4. IORP II
5. CMRD6
6. GDPR
7. FLMP
8. Public Procurement Regulation proposal

II. On the table

1. Quality Jobs Act
2. Psychosocial risks, stress and mental health: Ceulemans report (INL)

III. Implementation and follow-up of adopted directives

1. Pay Transparency Directive

IV. AOB

1. State of the Union
2. Non-paper on simplification
3. Gender equality workshop
4. EPSR
5. EU Inc
6. Date and place of next meeting

Enclosure 2

Participant list

LobbyNet 22 September 2026

Country	Name	Attendance
Austria WKO	Claudia GOLSER-ROET	In person
Finland Technology Industries of Finland	Sara LEAL DE MATOS- POWELL	In person
France UIMM	Lucile UHRING	Online
Germany Gesamtmetall	Jana BERNHARDT Victoria KRAH Stefan SOLLE	Online Online In person
UK Make UK	Richard RUMBELOW	Online
CEEMET	Hilde THYS Viktorya MURADYAN	In person In person