

To the Chairperson(s) of the committee(s) concerned

Subject: Invitation to the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) - "The future of the European Social Fund Plus"

Dear Chair,

With the aim of discussing future perspectives for achieving the Union's employment and social objectives, the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs will hold an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) entitled "*The Future of the European Social Fund Plus*". The event will take place at the European Parliament in Brussels on Thursday, 1 October 2026, from approximately 09:00 to 13:00.

On behalf of the EMPL Committee, I would like to invite you to attend this important ICM and contribute to a fruitful exchange of views. The event will comprise two main sessions, bringing together representatives from the European Parliament, national parliaments, the European Commission, and the Irish Presidency of the Council for a morning of engaging discussions and lively debate.

During the first session, we will explore how the future ESF+ can make a stronger, more visible, and more effective contribution to achieving the EU's employment and social objectives. The discussion will focus on promoting quality jobs, strengthening opportunities for adult learning and skills development, and reinforcing efforts to reduce poverty and social exclusion across the European Union.

During the second session, discussions will focus on the main priorities for ESF+ during the 2028–2034 programming period and on how it can respond to emerging social and economic challenges. Members of both the European Parliament and national parliaments will exchange views on future needs, policy priorities, and the role of ESF+ in supporting resilience, inclusion, and sustainable growth.

The meeting will serve as a platform enabling participants to identify common issues and priorities, share best practices, and discuss challenges faced across different Member States. It will also directly contribute to the work of our Committee and to the ongoing discussions on the future of ESF+.

I count on your participation and look forward to your valuable contributions on these important topics.

Please find enclosed the preliminary draft agenda, as well as a background document setting out the context of the two sessions and presenting several framing questions for participants. Practical details regarding the meeting will be provided at a later stage.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Michal Chajn (michal.chajn@europarl.europa.eu).

I look forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 1 October 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Li Andersson