

Social Partners express concerns over economic governance review

JOINT STATEMENT FROM EUROPEAN EMPLOYERS AND TRADE UNIONS



EU's economic governance rules



(7 February 2024) The European trade unions and employers for the social services sector are concerned about the EU Council mandate for the negotiations on the review of the EU's economic governance rules.

The EU institutions are currently working on a [reform of the EU economic governance](#). [Calculations of the Bruegel institute](#) indicate that several member states will have to reduce public spending in 2025 and years coming, often in the billions of euros, under this mandate.

Such measures have in the past reduced spending for a broad range of social services, such as elderly care, care for persons with disability or childcare.

The joint statement calls on the Council, Parliament and the Commission to examine the consequences that further austerity measures would have on social cohesion policies in the Member States and consequently to change the rules of economic governance in order to maintain or even develop the capacity to finance and invest in social services in order to meet the challenges faced by our Member States.

As EU social partners, we are committed to work with the Commission and Member States for the full implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the Recommendations on early childhood education and care and long term care.

Member States' potential efforts to invest in social services for the benefit of their citizens' wellbeing must not be hindered by EU economic governance rules.

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