European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)

2016/0256(COD) - 23/08/2016 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to replace and repeal the Regulation establishing the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound), and to repeal Council Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Eurofound's Founding Regulation has been amended three times, in 1993, 2003, and 2005, mainly to take account of EU enlargement or Treaty changes. However, such amendments have not significantly altered the fundamentals of the Agency.

It is therefore proposed to revise the original Regulation establishing this Agency. This revision will provide a clearer description of the role of Eurofound in supporting the Commission, other EU institutions and bodies, Member States and social partners in shaping policies on living and working conditions as well as in promoting social dialogue.

The revision also offers the opportunity to update the objectives and tasks of Eurofound in order to reflect the developments within the Agency and in the context in which it operated since the adoption of the Founding Regulation in 1975.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation based on Article 153 of the TFEU - aims to revise the founding regulation of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) from 1975.

The reasons for the revision are twofold:

- update the objectives and tasks of Eurofound;
- align certain provisions of the existing Regulation governing Eurofound with the Common Approach on Decentralised Agencies.

Eurofounds tasks: since its establishment in 1975, the Foundation has adapted its activities to the overall societal, institutional and economic developments and emerging trends in European policies in the field of living and working conditions.

The new objectives and tasks will be adjusted to better reflect these developments and Eurofound's current contribution to the development of social and work-related policies, by providing relevant and high quality research output in the field of employment, industrial relations, working and living conditions.

The revision aims in particular:

- to provide a clearer description of the role of Eurofound in supporting the Commission, other EU institutions and bodies, Member States and social partners in shaping policies on living and working conditions;
- to promote social dialogue. It will update the mandate of Eurofound as a centre for analysis, research and policy monitoring in these policy areas;
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Other measures related to the decentralised agencies: the revision also creates the opportunity to provide for:

- anti-fraud measures,
- conflict of interest policy,
- evaluation and review measures,
- the establishment of a headquarters agreement,
- the provisions on programming and reporting with the requirements set by the revised Framework Financial Regulation.

Organisational aspects: the revision will also harmonise the provisions on programming and reporting with the requirements set by the revised Framework Financial Regulation. It will lead to modifying and aligning the appointment procedure of the Director (Executive Director) with the procedure provided for in the Common Approach and it will suppress the current position of Deputy Director. The role of appointing authority will be conferred to the Management Board of the Agency.

Regarding the appointment by the Council of the Management Board members representing the employers' and employees' organisations from each Member State, it is proposed that this is done on the basis of a list submitted by the EU social partners' organisations Business Europe and ETUC.