



Hungarian National Assembly
Committee on European Affairs

Opinion of the Committee on European Affairs

by virtue of Article 145 of Resolution 10/2014 (II.24.) OGY on certain provisions of the Rules of Procedure

concerning the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adequate minimum wages in the European Union

(hereinafter referred to as: Proposal)
[COM (2020) 682, 2020/0310 (COD)]

The Committee

- recalling the exchange of views on the Proposal with the representative of the Government at the Committee meeting of 9 November 2020;
- agrees with the general objectives of the Proposal to provide access for adequate working conditions and adequate minimum wages for workers;
- stresses however that in the field of social policy, Union is vested with complementary and supportive competence, which as stipulated by Paragraph (5) of Article 153 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) cannot be applied to pay. It follows that, in accordance with TFEU, the submission and adoption of the Proposal is not possible;
- takes the view that - based on the legal basis selected - the creation of adequate minimum wages is considered as part of adequate working conditions which is unacceptable;
- objects, that different conditions are foreseen by the Proposal for Member States with statutory minimum wages and Member States relying on collective bargaining systems. In addition, Member States with statutory minimum wages would be imposed with much more obligations;
- is of the position – based on the Hungarian experiences since 2010 – that minimum wage level develops in line with the improvement of economic performance of the Member States;
- points out that the Proposal would have significant effect on the competitiveness of companies and the national social benefit schemes dependant upon minimum wage level. Consequently, it follows that the Proposal would also effect the social security systems and budgets of Member States;

- further points out that the Union level determination of the increase of proportions of capacities of social partners and trade unions, in particular would constitute explicit interference to national systems, the autonomy of Member States and social partners;
- considers finally, that the adequate legal instrument for minimum wages at Union level would be a recommendation, thus fully respecting the competence of Member States.

Budapest, 22 February 2021