



FOR A FAIR MINIMUM SALARY – BE FAIRER AND BE BETTER

In the EU the wages are still very different and unequal, especially between minimum wages in less developed countries. We would like to guarantee a fair minimum wage for every EU citizen.

Group Members:

Federico, Henry, Marie-Luise, Bendy, Bianka (Spain, Germany, Hungary)

SUMMARY

One of the aims of the EU is to support the development of all member states. However, this isn't happening right now, due to the big economical gap between developed and less-developed countries. These differences provoke social problems in those which are less developed. Youth in these states don't have the opportunity to become independent because they usually earn the minimum wage, which isn't enough to start their own lives. The lack of regulation is leading them to leave their countries in search of better chances. Our aim is to change this by introducing a European minimum wage system.

THE PROPOSAL

Since the 2008 economic crisis the growth of the European Union became slower, especially in the less developed states. We're speaking about the Mediterranean and Eastern-European countries mostly. The gap between these countries and the richest ones became bigger in the past decade. In addition to this the youth unemployment rates in these states increased dramatically, especially in the southern countries. Moreover, the salaries stagnated since the economical crash. All these factors have led to a hopeless situation for the citizens of these countries, particularly affecting young people.

In the Eastern countries companies normally try to hire youngsters after they finished their degrees, but the salary that is offered to them is not competitive with the same Western ones. In the Mediterranean states these young people are not even able to get jobs that suits to their academic level, and they have to settle for underqualified and low-paid jobs. All these situations are leading them to leave their countries in search for opportunities in the most developed states. This is causing brain drain, and also social problems. As a consequence, the gap we've already mentioned gets bigger and bigger, because their home countries' development is getting slower. The social mobility of the inhabitants is almost a mirage. Usually there is also a lack of hand-workers, because they are paid with the minimum salary which isn't enough to achieve an acceptable standard of living. This causes



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that most of the young people decide to have a university degree, because with it the wages are usually higher. The lack of hand-workers and the overload of high-educated people could root a job market crash in the not-so-far future.

The institution of minimum wage is already existing in many countries in Europe, but not all the states have it. Italy, Austria, Sweden and Finland are example countries that do not have a regulation in connection with this. Still in those countries that have it there are serious differences between the national amounts. For example, the minimum wage in Luxemburg is 2071 euros, while in Bulgaria it is just 260 euros. This is not in line with one of the aims of the EU, that is to reach equality between its members. But even when equality is a goal that isn't being achieved, it's still not enough if we don't pay attention to equity.

What are we proposing? We are not proposing an EU-wide minimum wage amount. We know that the economical differences between members wouldn't make it possible. What we are proposing is to develop a regulation to decrease the gap between the countries' minimum salaries. This would affect those countries whose medium salary is under the European Union's medium salary. According to recent researches the medium European salary in 2018 was around 2000 euros, so the regulation would affect 16 countries.

The idea is to raise the minimum wage in these countries until 60% of the states' medium wages. In order to reach this goal, governments would apply for European funds that will cover the difference between the current salaries and the future (higher) ones. This wouldn't be an obligatory regulation, only a recommendation. The countries that are willing to apply to this process will have five years to adapt their new national minimum wages to the prescribed one. The European Commission should create a fund to finance this program. Just to clarify: the money would be only needed to fill out those employees' salaries, that are getting the minimum wages in the less developed countries. Later this fill-out should be financed by the governments, because naturally their economy would grow, and they would be able to back this money. With these actions the European Commission would follow one of the main goals established by the Founding States, which is the equity between all European nations.

This project would be accompanied with media and educational campaigns to make European citizens understand the importance of these efforts. It would also need the support and lobby of the NGOs, civil-rights organizations and political parties in both national and supranational level.

If we'd like to describe this program's effects with just one word, this word would be: opportunity. An opportunity for young people to follow their vocation. An opportunity for blue-collar workers to achieve an acceptable standard of living by their professions. An



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opportunity for citizens of less-advanced member states to make a living in their homelands. And an opportunity for these countries to keep their young people home as they are the nations' and Europe's future.

CLAIM

We want the EU to make a directive or a recommendation about a European Minimum Wage to support and guarantee fair minimum salaries for all EU citizens, especially for the youth.