



The Steering Group of the European Sunday Alliance invites you to its

Webinar on “The right to disconnect and the need for a European weekly common day of rest”

Tuesday 1st of June 2021 – 13:00-14:00 CEST – via Zoom – in English

[Register](#)

The Article 2 of the revised European Social Charter and the Article 31 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU state that every worker has the right to just conditions of work, which respect his or her health, safety and dignity, as well as the right to limitation of maximum working time, to daily and weekly rest periods and to an annual period of paid leave.

In its Resolution of 21 January 2021 on the right to disconnect (2019/2181(INL)), the European Parliament highlighted that “*constant connectivity combined with high job demands and the rising expectation that workers are reachable at any time can negatively affect workers’ fundamental rights, their work-life balance, and their physical and mental health and well-being*”. It called on the Commission to “*include the right to disconnect in its New Occupational Safety and Health Strategy*” and to propose an act on the right to disconnect, to establish minimum requirements for remote working and clarify working conditions, hours and rest periods.

The right to disconnect is particularly crucial during the weekly period of rest of workers, on the weekend and on Sunday. In addition to be essential for their mental and physical health, it enables them to engage in volunteer, cultural, sport or faith related activities and thus to create social ties. This day of rest needs to be synchronized, as it is a time of social gathering, for families and citizens to spend time together. Overall, the Sunday rest not only benefits the workers’ well-being and the social cohesion within communities, but also supports the global competitiveness of European businesses.

This webinar aims to raise awareness on the need to establish at the EU level a weekly common day of rest for all.

Programme

Opening Addresses

MEP Dennis Radtke (EPP, Germany)

Sponsor of the European Sunday Alliance

Co-Rapporteur of the European Parliament on “A strong social Europe for Just Transitions”
5 min

MEP Patrizia Toia (S&D, Italy)

Co-Chair of the European Parliament’s Intergroup on Social Economy
5 min

Exchange of views

MEP Alex Agius Saliba (S&D, Malta)

Rapporteur of the European Parliament on the right to disconnect
10 min

MEP Miriam Lexmann (EPP, Slovakia)

Member of the European Parliament’s EMPL Committee; Member of the European Parliament Intergroup on Demographic challenges, family-work balance and youth transition
10 min

Max Uebe

Head of Unit ‘Employment Strategy’ at the European Commission
10 min

Q&A with the audience

15 min

Conclusions from the ESA Steering Committee

5 min

Moderation by

Hendrik Meerkamp,

Senior Policy Adviser at the European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI)