



EESC, ULGIATI'S SPEECH ON DIGITAL FAIRNESS

The Digital Fairness Act, designed to fill the gaps left by existing legislation, is due to be presented by the European Commission on the 11th of November with the aim of strengthening consumer protection against unfair online practices. The initiative was announced by President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union address, complementing the EU Kids' Act, the package presented in September to ban children under the age of 13 from accessing social media. The legislative proposal in question was the subject of an Opinion (INT/1132 – Legislative Act on Digital Fairness) adopted on the 5th of October during the meeting of the INT Section (Single Market, Production and Consumption) of the European Economic and Social Committee, which was attended by Councillor Ulgiati. The need to develop a Digital Equity Act stems from the requirement to

combat unethical techniques and commercial practices linked to "dark patterns", influencer marketing on social media, the design of addictive digital products and online profiling, particularly when consumers' vulnerabilities are exploited for commercial gain. «The risk, however - said Ulgiati - is that regulatory overlaps may arise within an already complex framework of existing European Directives. To this end, it is useful to have harmonisation between the different laws applied by the various Member States, particularly to make it easier to protect consumers, especially in relation to companies operating across several European Countries. In fact, it is sometimes very complicated to enforce consumers' fundamental rights online». Particular attention is also being paid to the protection of vulnerable consumers. «In particular - concluded Ulgiati - I welcome the emphasis on

the online safety of minors and the reference to the EU Kids Regulation, which is specifically aimed at making online browsing safer and more reliable». The hope, therefore, is that the Digital Fairness Act does not result in a "regulatory maze" that is difficult to manage and which would undermine the simplification objectives that inspired it.



EU: FAIR LABOUR MOBILITY PACKAGE ADOPTED

The free movement of services and people has recently been at the heart of the European Commission's work; indeed, on the 15th of September, it adopted the Fair Labour Mobility Package with the aim of guaranteeing clear social rights for all workers in the European Union, regardless of the Country in which they choose to live and work. The Package will enable workers to demonstrate and assert their rights to social security and health insurance, and to ensure their qualifications are recognised throughout the EU, obtaining formal recognition in the case of regulated professions. The new rules and tools will offer mobile workers better protection against abuse and eliminate the slow and complex administrative procedures that prevent businesses from recruiting talent or providing services within the EU. National authorities will benefit from more efficient cooperation, enabling them to enforce workers' rights and combat fraud. The Package comprises a Communication on fair labour mobility

and five legislative proposals, including a new digital European Social Passport and the strengthening of the European Labour Authority (ELA). The technical core of the Package is the European Social Security Card (ESSPASS), which will enable people to apply for and receive social security documents online, including the European Health Insurance Card and the portable A1 certificate for posted workers. Through the European Digital Identity Wallet, those moving to another Member State will be able to store and present these documents in digital format, whilst public authorities will be able to verify them quickly. This digital space will be available to citizens and businesses by the end of the year. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, has linked the Package to the so-called list of the "ten terrible obstacles" to the Single Market, arguing that "the Single Market must also become a genuine skills market, with more opportunities for workers and businesses".