

Ms. Signe Riisalo
Minister of Social Protection of the
Republic of Estonia

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Kyiv, 07 June 2024

Dear Madam Minister,

The Council of Europe Office in Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia and would like to inform you of the following.

The Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, within the framework of the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine “Resiliency, Recovery and Reconstruction” for 2023-2026, is implementing the [project “Enhanced social protection in Ukraine” \(the Project\)](#). The aim of the Project is to ensure that people from vulnerable groups, including the war-affected population in Ukraine, enjoy an improved level of social rights and social protection.

On 03 July 2024, the Project, in co-operation with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and the Ministry of Social Security and Labour of Lithuania, is organizing the **event “Protecting social rights in times of war in Ukraine” in Vilnius, Lithuania (hereinafter – event)**. This event will be held prior to the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter, organized by the Council of Europe under the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers on 04 July 2024.

The purpose of the event is to discuss the importance of protecting social rights in times of war in Ukraine, including the role of the European Social Charter in aligning Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis, and the protection of children's rights as the most vulnerable group in the broad context of the war in Ukraine.

Given the high-level dialogue launched by Ukrainian authorities with some EU countries, including Estonia, in the social policy area, **we kindly invite you or a delegated representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia to take part in the event, specifically contributing to Session 2: “The European Social Charter as a Stepping Stone to Align with the EU Acquis: The Potential of Social Rights for a Smoother Accession”.**

The aim of this session is to present how the enhanced implementation of the European Social Charter, as the social constitution of Europe, can assist in the EU integration process. Additionally, it will discuss how the cooperation projects and the sharing of experiences with EU countries can help to make the process of EU integration in the social policy area smoother.

The event will bring together the representatives from the authorities of Ukraine, Lithuania and other countries, members of the European Committee of Social Rights, international experts, representatives of the Council of Europe and others.

The working languages of the event will be English, Lithuanian, and Ukrainian.

We would appreciate if you could kindly confirm the participation of a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Estonia **by 17 June 2024** to Ms. Iryna Ostapa, Senior Project Officer, at e-mail: iryna.ostapa@coe.int who remains at your disposal should you require any additional information.

Yours respectfully,

The image shows a handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Maciej Janczak'. Below the signature is a circular official stamp of the Council of Europe. The stamp features twelve blue stars arranged in a circle. Inside the circle, the text 'CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE' is written in French at the top, 'COUNCIL OF EUROPE' in English at the bottom, and 'OF EUROPE' in the center.

Maciej JANCZAK
Head of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine

Appendix: Draft Agenda of the event.