



Joint declaration

Public Services provide the core infrastructure for the functioning of the economy and society. They contribute more than 26% to the EU GDP and employ around 64 million persons corresponding to around 30% of the workforce.

It is widely acknowledged that Public Services do provide essential services and are important for Europe's economic, social and territorial cohesion. Regardless of their ownership, structure or whether they are provided under public service obligations or universal service obligations, Public Services are key to our economy and in particular to the development of a sustainable future.

Public services should be governed with a sound financial framework and by the awareness that forward-looking and long-term investments in the provision will result in improving our societies. That is why signatories to this declaration would like to express their worries about the current and future budgetary constraints and limitations.

Partners of the Public Services Employers' Forum call upon governments and the European Commission to recognise the adverse, long-term effects of reductions in investments and the lack of recognition of public service obligations. We also call upon social partners to be more involved in the decision-making process and the planning of upcoming reforms in order to avoid detrimental effects of austerity measures on service quality. It is our view that expertise is needed throughout the policy process.

The signatories to the declaration aim to highlight some of the most important challenges facing public services at a time of tightening budgets, and set out how Public Services Employers can work together to tackle these common issues.



We, the signatories to this Declaration,

Highlight the critical contribution of public services providers to the future of European economies which would not be able to function properly without these services;

Are convinced that the solution to the crisis would need to be found by working in partnership at national and European level encompassing a sustainable and longer-term view;

Underline that Social Dialogue is a key element of the European Social Model and to the resolution of the crisis and its ongoing effects; and call on the European Commission and national governments to support this dialogue;

Operate to deliver sound and effective services taking into account value for money, which would enable citizens of the EU 27 to have high-quality public services with good choice for citizens using our services;

Stress that public services operate in very capital-intensive and labour-intensive industries; and that they need to have access to capital markets and secure sustainable sources of financing in order to fulfil their obligations and ensure the well-being of the citizens in the European Union;

Point out that the best use of available resources remains an important principle in operating public services but **insist** that without investments and respect of the public services obligations, the missions of public services cannot be fulfilled;

Are fully aware of the complex challenges brought by demographic changes arising in the coming decades due both to an older workforce in our sectors and a changing user base;

Underline the importance of life-long training, good skills and education to enable public services to provide services with high standards. This will help to attract new highly skilled workers to a.o. replace the large number of workers who will retire in the next decades;

Are aware that we provide services both within the European Single market and for the market.

Commit to:

- Engaging in political discussion especially ahead of the Tripartite Social Summit;
- Cooperating further via specific political meetings on topics of joint common interests.

