

## 10 PROPOSALS FOR HIGH QUALITY, ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE PHS

**On the occasion of the International Domestic Workers' Day, EFSI calls on European decision makers to recognise PHS as a key element to meet EU social, employment and gender equality priorities.**

BRUSSELS, 18 June 2019: EFSI new position paper "[10 Proposals for High Quality, Accessible and Affordable PHS](#)" offers an overview of the PHS sector<sup>1</sup> across Europe. EFSI stresses the major social role played by PHS in the light of current socio-demographic trends such as population ageing and increased women participation in the labour markets. Given the ever-growing demand for care and household related services, PHS have the potential to create new jobs, thus increase competitiveness, while improving European people's work-life balance. Nonetheless, the PHS sector is still insufficiently recognised and supported by public authorities. Instead, EFSI considers that a **well-developed and regulated PHS sector would purposefully meet European people's needs, towards a fully inclusive European Social Europe.**

The position paper outlines the main challenges faced by PHS employers, workers and users alike, as well as some major steps forward on PHS development at European and global level. The document calls for further action by addressing ten recommendations to newly elected Members of the European Parliament and designated European Commissioners.

As Aurélie Decker, EFSI Director argues: *"High-quality, accessible and affordable PHS are essential preconditions to European people's well-being. By promoting PHS, EFSI aligns with the European Social Agenda and related instruments, like the European Pillar of Social Rights. PHS development should therefore be considered as a top priority both at European and national level"*. Furthermore, she adds *"PHS stakeholders need strong support from public authorities to set suitable legal and financial conditions to better regulate the sector. **Invest in PHS means investing in European people, ensuring better standards of living, building a more inclusive and resilient Social Europe"**.*

**We invite EU decision-makers to refer to our ten recommendations as a compass to take action and build knowledge on PHS**, insisting on decent working conditions, access to affordable and quality services, suitable fiscal regulation and financial support.

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<sup>1</sup> **Personal and Household Services (PHS)**: activities carried out mainly in users' home relating to personal assistance services (early childhood, child care, dependence, disability, invalidity, etc.) summarized under the term "care-related services" and to services of daily living (cleaning, ironing, gardening, small DIY, maintenance, remedial classes, etc.) united under the term "household support" or "non-care services".

# OUR 10 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that PHS are recognised as a key element to meet EU social, employment and gender equality priorities, EFSI recommends the following policy actions to be implemented between 2019 and 2024.

## A more gender balanced society



- 1 Recognise PHS contribution to gender equality.
- 2 Improve access to quality, affordable PHS as a precondition to improve the levels of work-life balance.

## Meeting citizens' needs



- 3 Boost investment in PHS at European, national and local levels.
- 4 Ensure the affordability of PHS through adequate social and fiscal benefits.
- 8 Ensure that the PHS sector will make the best use of latest digital developments.

## Improved working conditions



- 5 Ensure the implementation of the EPSR to enhance working conditions in the PHS sector.
- 6 Encourage the recognition and the development of PHS workers' skills.
- 7 Recognise and improve the rights of migrant PHS workers.

## Building knowledge on PHS



- 9 Contribute to bridging the knowledge gap on PHS at EU level.
- 10 Collect information on undeclared work in the PHS sector and foster the exchange of knowledge and practices.

You can download the position paper [here](#).

**Contact:**        **Aurélie Decker**  
Director - EFSI  
+32 (0) 2 204 08 73  
+32 (0) 473 66 48 69  
[aurelie.decker@efsi-europe.eu](mailto:aurelie.decker@efsi-europe.eu)  
[www.efsi-europe.eu](http://www.efsi-europe.eu)

EFSI brings together national federations and associations as well as private companies involved in the promotion, defence and development of Personal and Household Services (PHS), both at national and European level. PHS are a broad range of care and non-care activities that contribute to the wellbeing at home of families and individuals. EFSI gives voice to PHS stakeholders on the EU scene, advocating for full PHS recognition and inclusive development.