



Republic of Bulgaria
ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ACTION PLAN 2024

Adopted on 01.02.2024/Updated on 17.05.2024

I. Development and adoption of acts of the Economic and Social Council by the proposal of:

The President of Republic of Bulgaria

1. Updated analysis of demographic and socio-economic development of planning areas – results and state of play

Ad hoc Committee

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

2. Analysis of education inequalities and their impact on the labour market in Bulgaria. Solutions for adjusting the education system to the applicability of knowledge and the formation of social skills

Ad hoc Committee

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

3. Analysis of the expected effects of artificial intelligence on the labour market in Bulgaria. Proposals for concrete measures to overcome the problems

Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations

Committee on Economic Policy

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

The President of the National Assembly

4. Analysis of the causes, factors and trends for the formation and scope of the group of so-called “in-work poverty”. Recommendations and proposals for legislative changes to limit this phenomenon

Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations

Rapporteurs: Group 2

Timeline: first half of the year

5. Analysis of the current pension system and proposals for its improvement

Ad hoc Committee

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

The Council of Ministers

6. Analysis of the possibilities for simplifying and speeding up the procedures for access of workers and highly qualified personnel from third world countries to the labour market for the needs of the Bulgarian business

Committee on Economic Policy

Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations

Rapporteurs: Group 1 and Group 2

Timeline: first half of the year

II. Development and adoption of acts on economic and social policy issues by its own initiative:

7. Analysis of Directive 2023/970 of the European Parliament and of the EU/10.05.2023, to strengthen the application of the principle of equal pay for equal work or work of equal value between men and women through pay transparency and enforcement mechanisms

Committee on Social Policy

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

8. Resolution of ESC “Bulgaria’s accession to the Eurozone”

Committee on Macroeconomics, Budget and Finance

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

9. Opinion “The European Semester in Bulgaria – Challenges and Opportunities”

Committee on European Policies and European Process

Committee on Economic Policy

Rapporteurs: group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

10. Opinion “Strategic Planning in Bulgaria – Challenges and Opportunities for Green and Digital Transition”

Committee on Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Environment and Regional Policies

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

11. Resolution “National Just Transition Plan – a key tool for making the transition to a climate-neutral economy”

Presidents Board

Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents

Timeline: first half of the year

12. Analysis of the interaction between civil society organisations and national and local institutions in response to crises

Committee on European Policies and European Process

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: first half of the year

13. Analysis of ILO Convention No 154 on the Promotion of Collective Bargaining

Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations

Rapporteurs: Group 2

Timeline: second half of the year

14. Analysis “The European Requirements and Perspectives for Cyber Resilient Bulgaria”

Committee European Policies and European Process

Rapporteurs: Group 1

Timeline: second half of the year

15. Analysis "The free electricity market: problems and challenges for household and non-household consumers, measures to increase energy efficiency”

Committee on Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Environment and Regional Policies

Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations

Rapporteurs: Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

16. Analysis of operating conditions and opportunities for coal plants in the transformation of coal regions to low-carbon energy

Committee on Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Environment and Regional Policies

Rapporteurs: Group 2

Timeline: second half of the year

17. Opinion on the Reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy after 2027

*Committee on Sustainable Development, Agriculture, Environment
and Regional Policies*

Rapporteurs: Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

18. ESC Resolution on Bulgaria's accession to the OECD

Presidents Board

Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents

Timeline: second half of the year

19. Opinion on Rethinking the Social Economy: innovation and sustainability in response to contemporary challenges in Bulgaria”

Committee on Social Policy

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

20. Opinion on “The Informal and Gray Economy in Bulgaria – Effects on Competitiveness, Employment and Budget”

Committee on Macroeconomics, Budget and Finance

*Committee on Labour, Income, Standards of Living and Industrial
Relations*

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: second half of the year

21. Analysis “Stimulation policies for economic growth in Bulgaria”

Committee on Economic Policy

Rapporteurs: Group 1 and Group 2

Timeline: second half of the year

22. Opinion on Challenges to the Access and Quality of Health Care in the Republic of Bulgaria

Committee on Social Policy

Rapporteurs: Group 2

Timeline: fourth quarter of the year

23. Analysis of tax and social security legislation in Bulgaria

Committee on Macroeconomics, Budget and Finance

Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3

Timeline: fourth quarter of the year

III. Organisation of consultations, discussions, conferences, round tables, seminars and other forms with representatives of the legislative and executive power and civil society structures on socially relevant issues of economic and social development.

- ❖ Discussions and consultations on economic and social issues.

Timeline: permanent

- ❖ Organisation of discussions at regional level for presentation of Analysis on the demographic and socio-economic development of planning areas – results and state of play.
- ❖ A series of discussions on the main priorities of the ESC: the euro area, the green deal, digitalisation and the social theme, with a presentation of all the acts on the topics.
- ❖ Discussion related to sustainable development in Bulgaria (first half of the year)
- ❖ Youth Policy Round Table (second half of the year)
- ❖ Discussion related to equal treatment and equal opportunities and family policies in Bulgaria
- ❖ Roundtable on the Social Economy
- ❖ Discussion related to environmental health and the impact of electromagnetic fields

V. International activities of the Economic and Social Council

1. Cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

Timeline: permanent

- 1.1. Developing and expanding cooperation with the EESC
- 1.2. Participation of ESC members and representatives of its administration in conferences, discussions, initiatives, meetings and other forms of cooperation organised by the EESC.
- 1.3. Developing joint work with the EESC on developing analyses and opinions, organising joint conferences, discussions, etc.
- 1.4. Participation in the annual meeting of the presidents and secretaries-general of the national ESCs and similar institutions of the EU and EESC countries.

2. Development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation with national ESCs and other related national and international institutions.

Timeline: permanent

- 2.1. Exchange of information and good practices.
- 2.2. Working together to develop common documents and organise joint conferences, discussions and other forms.
- 2.3. Organising mutual visits with other national ESCs and similar institutions.
- 2.4. Participation of ESC members and staff of its administration in conferences, meetings and other forms of cooperation organised by national ESCs and other related national and international institutions.
- 2.5. Participation in the work and initiatives of the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions.
- 2.6. Participation in the meetings and work of the EU-Mediterranean Initiative (EUROMED).
- 2.7. Maintaining contacts and cooperation with other related national and international institutions.

VI. Institutional development

1. Election of members of the Standing Commission of the ESC.

Timeline: permanent

2. Changes to the Rules of Procedure of the ESC.

Timeline: permanent