



Republic of Bulgaria  
ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

# ACTION PLAN 2024

Adopted on 01.02.2024/Updated on 04.10.2024

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

## The President of the 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, Incomes, 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 Chairperson 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, Incomes, 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 to the labor market of workers and highly qualified personnel from third countries for the needs of the Bulgarian business

*Committee on Economic Policy*

*Committee on Labour, Incomes, 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. ESC Resolution on “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 on “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 on “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 on “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, Incomes, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations*

*Rapporteurs: Group 2*

*Timeline: first half of the year*

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

*Committee European Policies and European Process*

*Rapporteurs: Group 1*

*Timeline: first half of the year*

15. Resolution on “Updated National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan”.

*Presidents Board*

*Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents*

*Timeline: first 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: first half of the year*

17. Analysis on "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, Incomes, Standards of Living and Industrial Relations*

*Rapporteurs: Group 2 and Group 3*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

18. Opinion on Accelerating the Development of the Social Economy in Bulgaria in response to contemporary challenges”.

*Committee on Social Policy*

*Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

19. ESC Resolution on Bulgaria’s accession to the OECD

*Presidents Board*

*Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

20. Opinion on the Problems and challenges to the competitiveness of the Bulgarian producers of agricultural products

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

*Rapporteurs: Group 3*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

21. Opinion on “Territorial units of the Republic of Bulgaria”

*Committee on Macroeconomics, Budget and Finance*

*Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

22. ESC Declaration on a Bill to Register Foreign Agents

*Presidents Board*

*Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

23. ESC Resolution on a Bill to Register Foreign Agents

*Presidents Board*

*Rapporteurs: Vice-Presidents*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

24. Analysis “Stimulation policies for catching-up economic growth in Bulgaria”.

*Committee on Economic Policy*

*Rapporteurs: Group 1 and Group 2*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

25. Analysis of tax and social security legislation in Bulgaria – tools to reduce income inequalities

*Committee on Macroeconomics, Budget and Finance*

*Rapporteurs: Group 1, Group 2 and Group 3*

*Timeline: second half of the year*

26. 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*

### **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