

EU Pillar of Social Rights: the mirage of a social Europe?

Esther Lynch

ETUC, Confederal Secretary

What is the European Pillar of Social Rights?

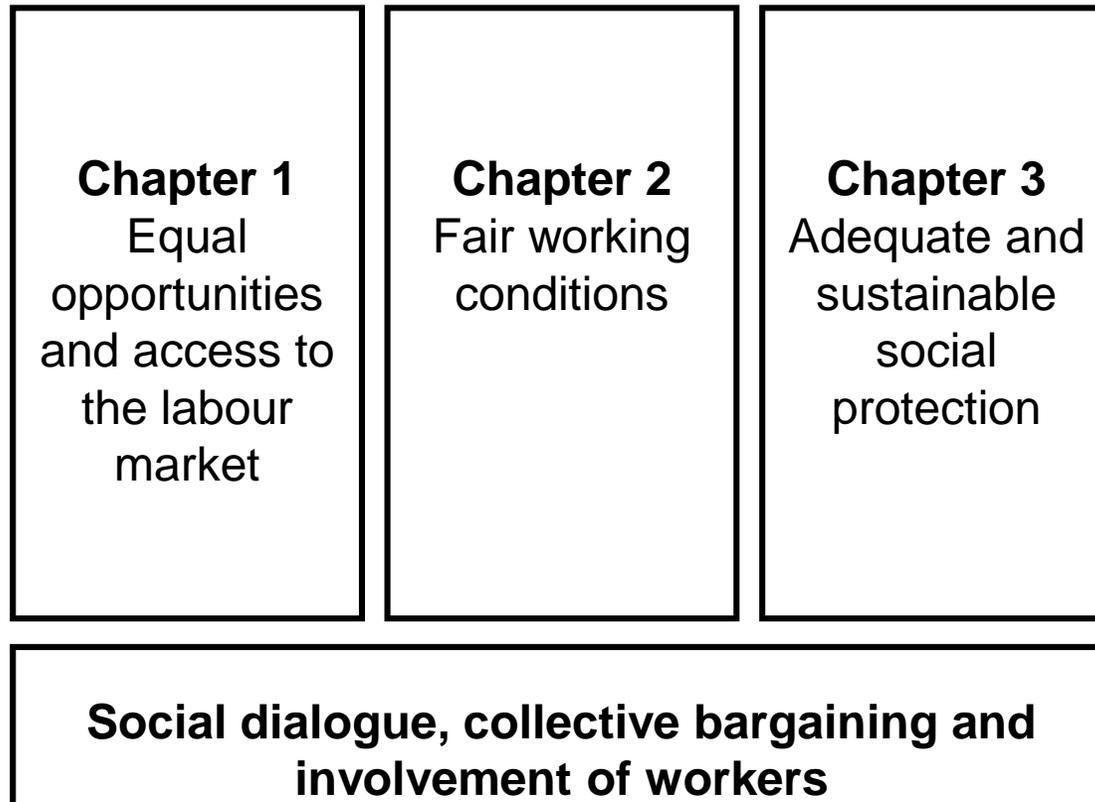
- **A stated objective of the Juncker Commission – ‘social market economy’**
- **Consultation launched 8 March to run until the end of 2016**
- **Primarily 2 documents: a communication and an annex**
- **Culminating in a ‘European conference’ organised by the Commission**

Key points from a trade union perspective

- **This could be the beginning of the ‘Social Europe’ that we have been demanding for many years**
- **An strategic opportunity for ETUC to develop our own vision and capacity utilising the knowledge, skills and experience of key affiliates and the ETUI**
- **A way to build confidence in EU by showing that the EU can respond to needs of workers, their families and communities**

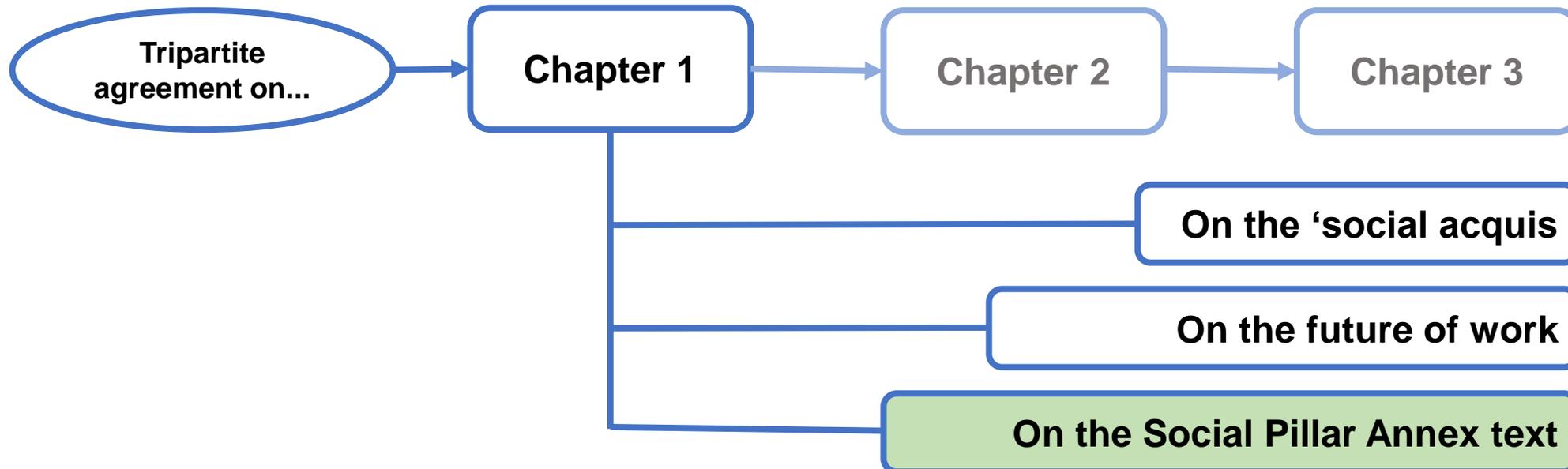
Our approach

“A social pillar of rights built on decent work principles”



The consultation – state of play

- **High-level meeting already taken place on 11 April in which several gains were achieved in relation to the process;**
- **A lot of moving parts - three streams of consultation across three chapters of content:**



HEADLINE DEMANDS

- **Rebalance social rights and economic freedoms**
- **EU not just Eurozone**
- **Improve existing rights by removing exclusions, closing loopholes, cover all 'workers'**
- **No to 'flexibility'**
- **New Rights**
- **No to SME being treated differently for H&S**
- **Citizenship**
- **Promote collective bargaining as solution and method to achieve outcomes**
- **Social Protection as a productive factor**

THANK YOU