The EU Commission approach to platform workers

Rethinking Labour Law in the Digitalisation Era conference, 15-16 October 2020

Stefan Olsson – Director Employment
Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Executive Vice-President Vestager:  
“The success of digital business may be built on clever technology. But it also depends on the work of a great many people in the physical world. And digitisation must never be an excuse for companies to turn their backs on those workers, and deny them the security and the decent conditions they deserve”. 

[Symposium on Digitalisation, The Hague, 3 February 2020]

Commissioner Schmit:  
“We have to make sure that people who work on [...] platforms are not just a new underprivileged workforce… We cannot have the economy of the 21st century with working conditions that are more comparable to those in the 19th century”. 

[Euractiv interview, 14 January 2020]
Platform work in the EU

EU AVERAGE*

- Total platform workers: 11%
- Main platform workers**: 1.4%

EU TOTAL AVERAGE: 11%

Source: JRC (2020)
Platform work in the Member States

• Government and social partners’ responses;

• Case law direction not uniform;

• Challenges from lack of platform work regulation.
Towards a European approach to platform work?

• The need for a common approach;

• Existing EU-level policy framework;

• An initiative to improve the working conditions of platform workers.
Thank you!