



High Level Conference on *Mental Health and Precarious Work*

The Spanish Ministry of Labour promotes discussion on mental health at work within the European social agenda

- “We are in a position to generate a prosperous Europe, one that is not based on precarious work and where, in any case, the workplace is not a place of suffering,” said Joaquín Pérez Rey
- EU employment officials and experts analyse mental health in the workplace and its links to job insecurity
- On 9th October, EPSCO will present an opinion on this issue

Toledo, 26th September 2023 - The acting Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, Joaquín Pérez Rey, participated in the inaugural ceremony and debate with several of his counterparts from Germany, Slovenia, Hungary, Portugal and Sweden during the high-level conference *Mental Health and Precarious Work. The management of psychosocial risks*, held in Toledo on September 26th and 27th. The meeting is part of the actions carried out by Spain within the framework of its rotating presidency of the European Union.

The event was also attended by European Commission officials and international experts who addressed psychosocial risks in the workplace from different perspectives.

The guarantee of rights and freedoms is a cornerstone of the European Union, as explained by the Secretary of State for Employment: “Nobody loses their rights when they enter a factory. We can be proud that we live on a continent where the welfare state and citizens' rights have become a feature of coexistence based on solidarity and mutual support. The same has to be said of the labour market”.

As a matter of fact, opening up the debate on mental health in the workplace constitutes a new milestone in the construction of a Social Europe, and



where Spain seeks to play a fundamental role during its rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union.

“That Europe is working on mental health issues today, that the European Commission is talking about an integrated approach, that we are discussing fair green and digital transitions or how to face forthcoming challenges through the European Year of Skills, means that we are in a position to generate a prosperous Europe, one that is not based on precarious work and where, in any case, the workplace is not a place of suffering”, said Pérez Rey.

Advances within the European Union

The Ministry of Labour and Social Economy commissioned a pioneering report on the subject from a commission of experts. Its conclusions were published in March. It also requested the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee prior to the Spanish Presidency, and the first conclusions of the Council of the European Union regarding mental health and job insecurity are expected to be approved on 9th October.

These conclusions will seek to encourage quality employment policies and the fight against precariousness at work, promote research on mental health at work with a preventive approach, and focus on the impact of working conditions on mental health, among other aspects.

Within the European Union, companies and organisations will be encouraged to include psychosocial risk management in their health and safety risk assessments, and the role of labour inspectorates and other monitoring bodies in Member States will be strengthened.

Additionally, within the framework of social dialogue, efforts will be made to improve working conditions that have a negative impact on mental health, especially those that are representative of precarious jobs.

Bilateral meeting with Germany

The Acting Secretary of State for Employment and Social Economy, Joaquín Pérez Rey, also held a bilateral meeting with the Secretary of State of the German Federal Ministry of Labour, Lilian Tschan, who thanked



Spain for its commitment to mental health in the workplace and combating job insecurity. Both parties also reviewed other priority dossiers under the Spanish EU Council Presidency.