

AIM WELCOMES THE NEW EU DIRECTIVE ON PLATFORM WORKERS

AIM welcomes the new directive on platform workers¹, which ensures the same legal employment status for digital platform workers as for other workers. There are more and more digital platforms, and the trend is increasing. The aim of the Commission proposal, which was published on 9 December 2021 is that “the new business model should fit with social standards (...)”, according to EU Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit.

AIM President Loek Caubo says: “As health insurance funds and mutual benefit societies in health care, we have a responsibility that everybody has access to healthcare without inequalities. Platform workers should be protected in case of sickness like any other employee. We therefore welcome the new Commission proposal as a first step in the right direction”.

Re-classifying platform workers as employees is crucial

AIM members emphasize that including all platform workers into the scope is essential. It gives even those platform workers the safeguards ensured by the directive, where the employment status of the person is not clear. AIM members also welcome the criteria triggering the presumption of employment status, reclassifying platform workers as employees. Even more important is that platform workers are treated as employees, when he is classified as an independent contractor, but the facts show a different reality. However, the directive does set burdensome criteria to activate the presumption of employment which could undermine the purpose of the directive. The upcoming negotiations should resolve this problem.

Transparency, fairness, and accountability are important

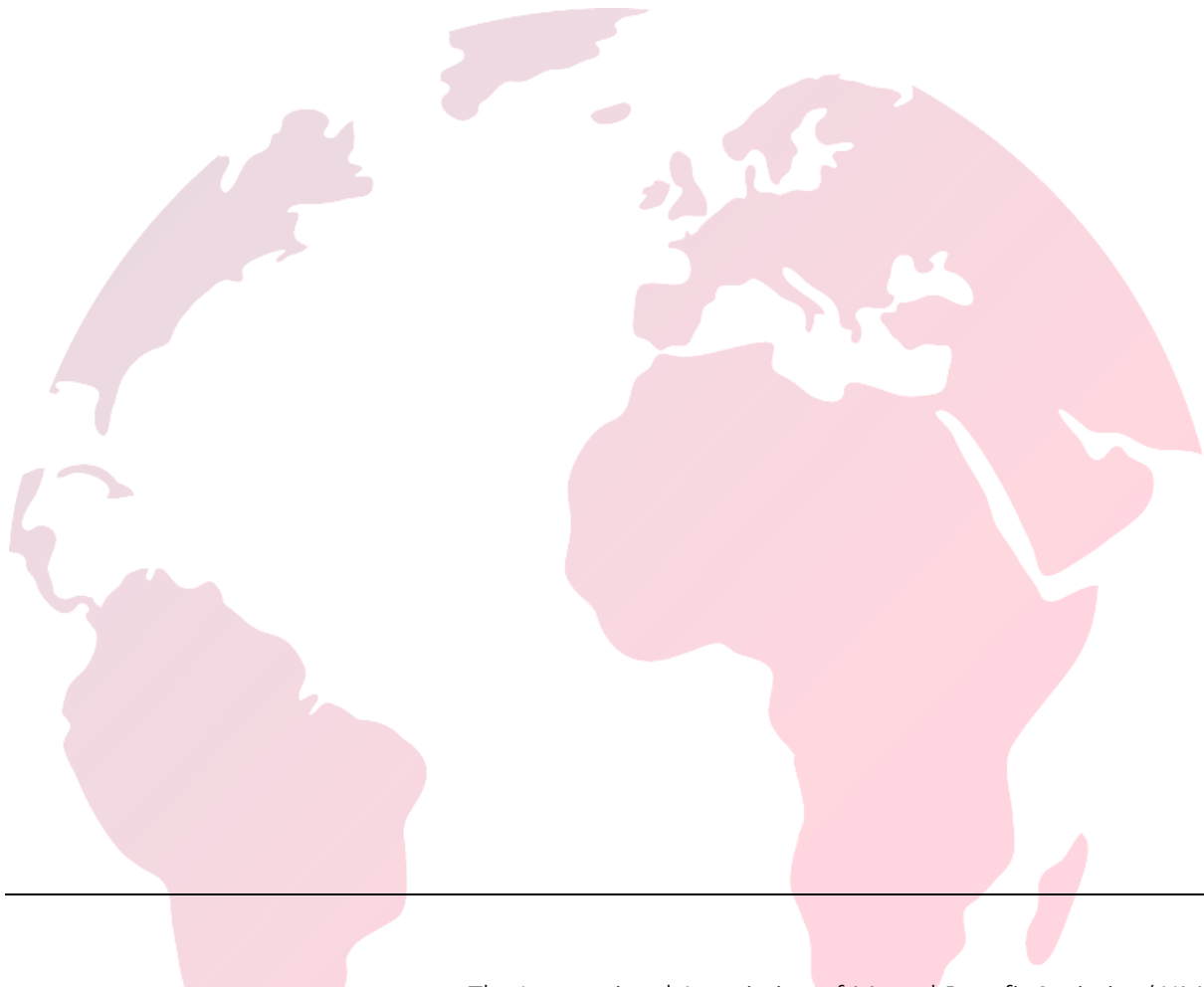
The working conditions of platform workers are fundamentally affected by algorithmic decisions such as to their pay, ranking and ability to receive further work. Advanced technologies do not make humans redundant. Therefore, AIM members welcome that platform will have to provide adequate information to workers and their representatives about their decisions. AIM supports that the texts provide for a right to explanation for a decision taken by automated systems that significantly affects working conditions such as access to tasks, earnings, occupational safety and health, working time, promotion, restriction, suspension or termination of contracts.

¹ Platform work is an employment form in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services in exchange for payment. Paid work is organised through online platforms. <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/observatories/eurwork/industrial-relations-dictionary/platform-work>, access: 13 December 2021.

Commission proposal is an added value to ensure access to Social Protection for all

The Commission is taking a courageous but necessary step in the right direction by holding platform providers accountable. In doing so, it guarantees social security for all citizens putting the social pillar in action and at the same time the sustainability of social security systems. AIM looks forward to contributing to reflections or preparation of Report of high-level expert group on access to adequate and sustainable social protection, which is announced for 2022.

Brussels, 13 December 2021



The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM) is an international umbrella organisation of federations of health mutuels and other not-for-profit healthcare payers. It has 55 members from 28 countries in Europe, Latin America and Africa and the Middle East. AIM members provide compulsory/and/or

supplementary health coverage to around 230 million people around the world, including close to 200 million people in Europe, on a not-for-profit basis. Some AIM members also manage health and social services. Collectively, they have a turnover of almost €300 billion. Members are either mutual or health insurance fund. They are private or public legal entities; solidarity based; not-for-profit orientations: surpluses are used to benefit the members; democratically-elected members play a role in the governance of the organisation.

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