JOINT DECLARATION OF INTENT

BETWEEN

THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

OF ROMANIA

AND

THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

ON INTENSIFYING THEIR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF LABOUR MARKET AND SOCIAL POLICIES

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Romania and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter referred to as “The Sides”) share the view that it would be in their mutual interest to intensify the cooperation in the field of labour market policies and to identify new means of cooperation in the field of social protection. They aim at ensuring that occupational safety and health standards and social protection are respected with regard to all groups of workers, in particular mobile workers and that mobile workers have access to social protection and counselling services on their rights in the field of social and labour law. This cooperation is intended to take place in the spirit of partnership based on friendship and with the aim of improving their mutual knowledge of one another, and of promoting learning from one another.

Therefore, the Sides have come to the following understanding:
I. Fields of cooperation

As the main fields of cooperation the two Sides have identified “occupational safety and health” and “social protection” in particular with regard to all groups of mobile workers and access of mobile workers to counselling services on their rights in the field of social and labour law. Other fields of cooperation may be jointly decided upon by the two Sides.

II. Means of cooperation

With the aim of expanding knowledge of one another, both Sides have identified the following means of cooperation within the field designated in Section I, while having in mind the importance to take all the necessary measures in order to protect labour mobility

- exchange of information, experience and best practices,
- creation of working groups to accommodate social protection policies in the two countries,
- enhance cooperation in the field of social security, at bilateral and EU level, including with the aim to ensure adequate social and health protection to mobile workers and to establish an exchange on labour-related cases that may arise, especially those in situations of high vulnerability in the context of the covid-19 pandemic,
- exchange of information on national and international events in the respective countries dealing with issues under the responsibility of the two Sides.
- promotion of the bilateral social dialogue between the social partners in both countries.

III. Coordination and implementation

1. The Sides share the opinion that the activities carried out under this Joint Declaration of Intent will be funded by each Side individually subject to availability of budgetary means, as well as by other public or private legal entities involved in the activities. The two Sides understand that the potential to use European funding should take priority.
2. The Sides understand that the costs incurred by the sending of delegations and seconding experts to implement the activities outlined within this Joint Declaration of Intent will be paid by the sending Side.
3. The Sides concur that they will inform the public of the content of the present Joint Declaration of Intent and of the outcome of the cooperation activities of both Sides.
4. The following bodies will be assigned the task to coordinate the implementation of the activities under the present Joint Declaration of Intent:

   a) The General Directorate for European Affairs and International Relations of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Romania,


5. In the framework of the present Joint Declaration of Intent, a Work Plan may be agreed by the two Sides.

6. Cooperation in accordance with the present Joint Declaration of Intent will commence upon its signature by both Sides and is intended to be continued for three (3) years. Three (3) months prior to the expiry of the present Joint Declaration of Intent both Sides may decide on its extension. The present Joint Declaration of Intent may be amended at any time in writing as decided by both Sides.

7. This Joint Declaration of Intent is not deemed to create rights and obligations under international law or to be legally binding.

Signed in Berlin on May 19th 2020 in duplicate in the English language.

FOR THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
HUBERTUS HEIL
FEDERAL MINISTER

FOR THE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION OF ROMANIA
VICTORIA VIOLETA ALEXANDRU
MINISTER