

2 June 2026

Minister Peter Burke TD,
Department of Enterprise, Tourism & Employment,
23 Kildare Street,
Dublin 2, D02 TD30

By email to:

minister@enterprise.gov.ie

ministerreps@enterprise.gov.ie

Request for meeting on the Traineeships Directive negotiations

Dear Minister Burke,

We are writing to request a meeting regarding the ongoing negotiations on **EU Quality Traineeships Directive and upcoming trilogue meeting on 18th June.**

We welcome the fact that following the third trilogue held on 5 May, negotiations have entered a more constructive and dynamic phase, with the European Parliament, Council and Commission expressing willingness to advance discussions and find agreements on parts of the text. We also understand that the Cypriot Presidency is currently exploring room for flexibility with national permanent representations and ministries in capitals in order to facilitate further progress in the negotiations scheduled for 18th June.

In this context, we believe it is essential to ensure continued support for an ambitious Directive that can effectively address the widespread exploitation and precarious conditions faced by trainees across Europe. For many years, we, as workers' representatives, with the support of the youth organisations and civil society, have called for stronger protections against abusive traineeships and the misuse of traineeships as substitutes for regular employment.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to discuss our national position on the file and exchange views on the next steps in the negotiations ahead of the upcoming trilogue discussions.

In particular, we would like to underline the importance of:

1. **Ensuring effective protection against abusive traineeships and disguised employment relationships by the ambitious scope of the directive.** The scope of the Directive will be crucial to ensure that employers cannot misuse traineeships as a source of cheap labour or circumvent standard employment protections.
2. **Safeguarding equal treatment and non-discrimination protections for trainees while respecting national industrial systems.** Trainees should not face unjustified differences in treatment compared to other workers, and any objective grounds for exceptions should therefore be strictly limited and subjected to consultations with social partners.
3. **Ensuring the data collection that allows for monitoring and transparency.** Better monitoring and transparency are necessary to understand the scale of traineeships, identify abusive practices and support evidence-based policymaking at both national and European level.

4. **Ensuring effective enforcement and resources for labour inspectorates.** Labour inspectorates and competent authorities must have sufficient tools, powers and resources to identify abuses and enforce rights effectively. Without adequate enforcement mechanisms, the objectives of the Directive risk remaining ineffective in practice.
5. **Finally, it remains essential to maintain access to broader protections under existing EU labour law applicable to workers.** Trainees should benefit from effective legal safeguards and should not be excluded from protections already established under Union law.

We remain convinced that a strong and ambitious Directive would contribute to fairer labour markets, better quality transitions into employment for young people, and a more level playing field across the European Union.

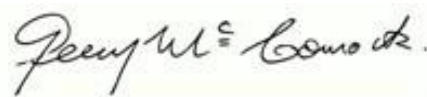
Young people are counting on you and Europe to deliver, and we hope we can a clear message that the EU is committed to protecting young people from exploitation and guaranteeing fair opportunities for all.

We would greatly appreciate the possibility of meeting with you at your earliest convenience and remain available to coordinate a suitable date and time.

Yours sincerely,



Owen Reidy
General Secretary



Gerry McCormack,
European Officer