

PRESS RELEASE

Fair Labour Mobility Package: Making ESSPASS work in practice

ESIP calls for realistic implementation, adequate funding and a strong role for social security institutions in shaping ESSPASS

Brussels, 22 September 2026 – The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) welcomes the European Commission's ambition to make social security coordination simpler, faster and more secure through digitalisation. Presented as part of the Fair Labour Mobility Package (FLMP) on 15 September, the European Social Security Pass (ESSPASS) has the potential to make social security documents easier to request, issue and verify across borders. This could bring tangible benefits for mobile citizens and employers, while also helping administrations prevent errors and tackle fraud.

For ESIP, the success of ESSPASS will depend on how it is designed and implemented. As the institutions responsible for implementing European social security coordination, statutory social security institutions must be closely involved in shaping the technical framework and be given the time and resources needed to adapt their systems.

"Digitalisation can make social security coordination easier for citizens, employers and institutions across Europe. But for ESSPASS to deliver on its promise, it must also work in practice. Social security institutions have the expertise needed to make this happen and must be closely involved in shaping the way forward," said Valeria Bonavolontà, ESIP's President.

Three conditions for making ESSPASS work in practice

For ESIP, three conditions will be decisive for the successful implementation of ESSPASS.

First, implementation must be coherent and realistic. The revision of the EU rules on social security coordination has not yet been formally adopted, and important questions regarding their interpretation remain unresolved. The implementation of ESSPASS must take this evolving regulatory framework into account. Under the Commission's proposal, the ESSPASS framework would apply to the portable document A1 twelve months after the Regulation enters into force and to the European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) two years later. However, no deadline is set for adopting the technical specifications that will determine the concrete obligations for institutions. Once the technical framework is in place, social security institutions need sufficient time to adapt their national systems and ensure a smooth transition for citizens and employers.

Second, digitalisation must be adequately funded. The Commission estimates that the reform will require substantial upfront investment, with these costs primarily falling on national public administrations. Potential long-term efficiency gains do not remove the need for substantial investment at the outset. ESIP therefore calls for adequate EU funding and early clarity on the resources available to social security institutions.

Third, social security expertise must shape the technical framework. National institutions have the practical knowledge needed to identify operational requirements and anticipate bottlenecks. Social security institutions must therefore have a structured and meaningful role in shaping the technical specifications governing social security coordination. ESIP calls for careful consideration of the proposed governance framework based on implementing acts and supports an inclusive approach that ensures operational expertise is effectively reflected in the decision-making process. **ESIP and its members stand ready to contribute their expertise throughout the legislative process and subsequent implementation of ESSPASS.**

About the European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP)

The European Social Insurance Platform (ESIP) represents 46 national statutory social insurance organisations in 19 EU Member States and Switzerland, active in the field of health, insurance, pensions, occupational disease and accident insurance, disability and rehabilitation, family benefits and unemployment insurance. ESIP and its members aim to preserve high profile social security for Europe, reinforce solidarity-based social insurance systems and maintain European social protection quality. ESIP builds strategic alliances for developing common positions to influence the European debate and is a consultation forum for European institutions and other multinational bodies active in the field of social security.