

Sharing Economy: European Parliament call for EU level guidance on employment and social security questions

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To regulate or not to regulate: This question becomes relevant for the sharing economy after last week's European Parliament resolution calling for clear EU guidelines on the collaborative economy. The resolution is a response to the European Commission's Communication on "A European agenda for the collaborative economy" from June 2016 which took a light or even non-regulation approach regarding this particular business model. The European Parliament is concerned that the Commission's Communication did not provide sufficient clarity or harmonization on how EU law applies to the various types of platform business models in order to fill regulatory gaps in the area of employment and social security.

However, the text of the resolution makes clear that the Parliament generally views the sharing economy as a positive development: "*the collaborative economy generates new and interesting entrepreneurial opportunities, jobs and growth, and frequently plays an important role in making the economic system not only more efficient, but also socially and environmentally sustainable, allowing for a better allocation of resources and assets that are otherwise under-used, and thus contributing to the transition towards a circular economy*".

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