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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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## 15. Labour and Employment: Job Creation

“We also work towards quality job creation.”

*G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.88 (94%)		

### Background

In 2019, at the Labour 7’s (L7) first conference, the engagement group urged G7 governments to commit to action for workers’ rights protection and universal social protection systems against income insecurity, with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO).<sup>3249</sup> Later, at the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, the L7 and Business 7 (B7) jointly stressed G7 governments’ role in supporting the implementation of social protection floors in low-income countries, based on the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation.<sup>3250</sup> Another communiqué by the Civil 7 (C7) in April 2023 promoted the urgency of ending child labour, forced labour, and other forms of exploitation.<sup>3251</sup> The effort of joint calls from L7, B7 and C7 led to reaffirmation from G7 Ministers in engaging in discussions with the United Nations and ILO on a consensus-based legally binding instrument to support labour movement in global supply chains.

Labour is a cross-cutting issue that has been linked with gender, the digital economy and human rights. It has been a long-standing issue on the G7’s agenda. Highlights of some of the G7’s work on labour follows:

At the 1997 Denver Summit, the G7 leaders first discussed job strategy where they reaffirmed the 1994 Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) Job Strategy framework, which emphasized the role of flexible labour and product markets for tackling high and persistent unemployment.<sup>3252</sup>

At the 1999 Cologne Summit, G8 leaders committed to a two-tiered approach towards job creation; first, by promoting meaningful structural reforms to make G8 economies competitive and enable unemployed individuals to return to the workforce; and second, by using macroeconomic policies to promote economic stability and sustainability.<sup>3253</sup> The leaders also endorsed the conclusions of the Labour Ministers’ ministerial meeting to including to make job searching easier through increased labour market information and services, facilitate lifelong learning opportunities and to provide equal access to job opportunities for all workers.

<sup>3249</sup> Labour 7 (L7), G7 France (Biarritz). 1 January 2019. Access Date: 1 October 2023.

<https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/01/01/labour-7-l7>.

<sup>3250</sup> B7/L7 Joint Statement for G7 Kurashiki Labour and Employment Ministers’ Meeting in Okayama, Japan Business Federation (Okayama). 22 April 2023. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <https://www.keidanren.or.jp/en/policy/2023/029.html>

<sup>3251</sup> Communiqué 2023, Civil 7 (Hiroshima). 12 April 2023. Access Date: 15 January 2024. [https://civil7.org/wpC7/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/C7\\_communique2023\\_0412.pdf](https://civil7.org/wpC7/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/C7_communique2023_0412.pdf)

<sup>3252</sup> Objectives by Issues (Evaluation Criteria) for the Denver Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 June 1997. Access Date: 28 November 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/evaluations/1997denver/issue/issues.htm>

<sup>3253</sup> G8 Communiqué Köln 1999, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 June 1999. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1999koln/finalcom.htm>

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders committed to promote new job opportunities to reduce unemployment, improve worker skills and match jobs with market needs,<sup>3254</sup> This includes new opportunities in the clean energy sector, which G8 leaders noted as an industry of potential labour growth.

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G7 leaders committed to promoting growth and increased job creation.<sup>3255</sup>

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 leaders emphasized the urgency for specific measures on creating quality jobs, sustainable growth and long-term living standards, and providing well-functioning credit channels for investment including by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).<sup>3256</sup>

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders declared that the support of job growth against unemployment is the priority, especially towards groups such as young people and the long-term unemployed. In response to increasing the resilience of the economies, G7 leaders agreed to investment in small and medium enterprises, participation of women, and fiscal strategies flexibly to support economic growth while consider near-term economic conditions.<sup>3257</sup>

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders acknowledged the support to boost women's entrepreneurship under the monitor of OECD. G7 leaders further highlighted UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights In support of labour human rights and sustainable action plans on environmental protection in global supply chains.<sup>3258</sup>

At the 2016 G7 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders agreed to a structural reform to increase gender diversity and youth in labor market participation and promote competition, entrepreneurship, and innovation by lowering barriers to new business entrants.<sup>3259</sup> President of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation RENGO and G7 labour leaders set up four major trade unions priorities: reducing inequality, creating employment and decent work, achieving gender equality, and achieving environmental sustainability and action on climate.<sup>3260</sup>

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders committed to helping those groups that face barriers in accessing new jobs, as well as to promoting skills for employability through identifying market needs, investing in training and education opportunities and using labour market policies to better and more efficiently integrate job seekers into the workforce.<sup>3261</sup>

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders omitted to investing in sustainable resources like infrastructure that will promote further job creation.<sup>3262</sup> That same year, under the Canadian G7 presidency, the Ministers of Employment and Innovation recognized the importance of collaborative conversation among governments, social partners, private sector, and educational institutions on the potential impact of industries, skilled workers,

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<sup>3254</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>3255</sup> Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 May 2012. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

<sup>3256</sup> G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 18 June 2013. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communiqué.html>.

<sup>3257</sup> G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Belgium (Brussels). 5 June 2014. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

<sup>3258</sup> Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 8 June 2015. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

<sup>3259</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 27 May 2016. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>.

<sup>3260</sup> Japan: G7 Labour Leaders Meeting with Prime Minister Abe, International Trade Union Confederation (Japan). 4 August 2016. Access Date: 8 October 2023. <https://www.ituc-csi.org/japan-g7-labour-leaders-meeting?lang=en>.

<sup>3261</sup> For a Better Future of Work: Pathways for Action, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 30 September 2017. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/2017-labour-declaration.html>

<sup>3262</sup> The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqué.html>

and governmental support in adaption to the growing economy.<sup>3263</sup> Employment Ministers reached consensus on the establishment of tools of anti-violence and anti-harassment to improve gender equality and pay equity in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Innovation Ministers reaffirmed support for investments in research and development, science and technology, vision in cyber-resiliency and human-centric artificial intelligence, and collaborative innovation ecosystems.

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders committed to accelerating progress on social protection for all as part of the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition, which has the aim of creating 400 million jobs and improving social protection.<sup>3264</sup>

In 2023, under Japan's G7 presidency, G7 Ministers of Labour and Employment released Investing in Human Capital: Kurashiki Ministerial Declaration in recognition of structural changes in the labour market and human capital in post-Covid-19 pandemic era and resulting from the war in Ukraine, climate change, inflation. G7 governments reaffirmed the creation of an inclusive labour market environment and digital, green transformation-based investment in human capital.<sup>3265</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders committed to “work towards quality job creation.”<sup>3266</sup> This refers to domestic and international action that will enhance human capital, work engagement, and real wage growth globally.

### **Definitions and Concepts**

“Work towards” indicates that countries need to demonstrate effort to act upon the objectives of this commitment but are not bound by a specific, measured goal.<sup>3267</sup>

“Quality” in this context refers to an employment standard that is in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal 8 in which “decent work” is understood to be employment that is productive and delivers a fair income.<sup>3268</sup> This includes safe working conditions, compensation that is in line with a living wage value, and freedom from discrimination.

“Job creation” is understood to mean the creation of new, paid employment opportunities.<sup>3269</sup>

### **General Interpretive Guidelines**

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that take strong action within the compliance period to create quality jobs. Areas for members to take action include implementing fair labour practices in line with the UN definition of quality work; investing in skills training and education; supporting micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs); promoting relevant financial services and instruments. G7 members must take several strong actions for a +1. “Several” is understood as at least three strong actions.

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<sup>3263</sup> Chair's Summary: G7 Ministerial Meeting on Preparing for Jobs of the Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto), 28 March 2018. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/2018-labour-summary-en.html>

<sup>3264</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 15 January 2024. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communication.html>

<sup>3265</sup> Investing in Human Capital: Kurashiki Ministerial Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto). 23 April 2023. Access Date: 1 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/employment/2023-declaration.html>

<sup>3266</sup> G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/G7+Hiroshima+Leaders+Communique.pdf>

<sup>3267</sup> Work towards, Oxford Languages (Oxfordshire) n.d. Access Date: 28 November 2023. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/work-towards>

<sup>3268</sup> Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, United Nations (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>

<sup>3269</sup> Job Creation, Oxford Languages (Oxfordshire) n.d. Access Date: 9 October 2023. [https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/jobcreation\\_1](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/jobcreation_1)

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take only weak action in more than one area within the compliance period to create quality jobs or it took strong action in two or fewer areas and weak action in others. Examples of weak actions include verbal affirmations and public awareness campaigns.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 members do not take sufficient action within the compliance period to create quality jobs by taking only weak action in one or no areas, or by taking action that is directly antithetical to the commitment.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The G7 member has not taken sufficient action to create quality jobs or has taken action that is antithetical to the commitment.
0	The G7 member has taken weak action towards quality job creation in two or more areas or has taken strong action in one area.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action towards quality job creation by taking strong action in at three or more areas.

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**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 29 May 2023, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne, along with Premier of Quebec’s François Legault and Quebec’s Minister of Economy, Innovation and Energy Pierre Fitzgibbon announced support for the latest cathode active materials (CAM) facility to be operational in Canada which will create around 200 jobs.<sup>3270</sup>

On 5 June 2023, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Julie Dabrusin announced over CAD30 million for job creation and training opportunities over the next two years for youth in STEM.<sup>3271</sup> 960 green jobs and training opportunities related to the fields of energy, forestry, mining, earth sciences and clean technology will be created.

On 15 June 2023, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson released details regarding the Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act as part of one of ten action areas of the Interim Sustainable Jobs Plan.<sup>3272</sup> Proposed measures in this Act include the incorporation of a Sustainable Jobs Partnership Council whose primary responsibility would be to provide the government with guidance on creating sustainable jobs and worker support.

On 9 July 2023, Canada Labour Standards Regulations and the Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations focused on implementing fair labour policies.<sup>3273</sup> One of the amendments focused on reimbursements for work

<sup>3270</sup> Government of Canada invests in GM-POSCO to strengthen Canada’s EV battery supply chain, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Béancour) 29 May 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2023/05/government-of-canada-invests-in-gm-posco-to-strengthen-canadas-ev-battery-supply-chain.html>

<sup>3271</sup> New Youth Jobs-Training Across Clean Technology and Sustainable Resource Sectors, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/06/new-youth-jobs-training-across-clean-technology-and-sustainable-resource-sectors.html>

<sup>3272</sup> Government of Canada Tables the Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act to Enable the Creation of Good, Middle Class Jobs Across Canada, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 June 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/06/government-of-canada-tables-the-canadian-sustainable-jobs-act-to-enable-the-creation-of-good-middle-class-jobs-across-canada.html>

<sup>3273</sup> Government of Canada Reimbursement for Work Related Expenses, 14 August 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/laws-regulations/labour/interpretations-policies/reimburse-work-expenses.html>

related expenses unless it is explicitly stated under the regulatory standards which is a written agreement. Furthermore, the amendments focused on making employee rights and employer rights more accessible by publishing the designated rights in accessible locations. To enforce these changes, there are several penalties and fines if companies and employers do not adhere to the guidelines.

On 12 October 2023, Minister for Women and Gender Equality Marci Ien launched a call for proposals under the Canadian Service Corps to promote service opportunities for individuals. This initiative will provide organizations with funding to facilitate the creation of service opportunities for youth, aiming to provide up to CAD5 million a year to create opportunities for up to 20,000 youth.<sup>3274</sup>

On 9 November 2023, Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Persons with Disabilities Kamal Khera announced CAD6.8 million will be allocated to funding organizations that help address persisting barriers to accessibility and inclusion for individuals with disabilities, which includes skill and job training initiatives.<sup>3275</sup>

On 20 November 2023, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Official Languages Randy Boissonnault announced that an additional CAD72.9 million will be put towards offering new training and career development opportunities for Albertans.<sup>3276</sup> The addition is part of a wider, long-term project which saw over 100,000 Albertans receive job training in the 2021-2022 period.

On 28 November 2023, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland introduced the Fall Economic Implementation Act for 2023.<sup>3277</sup> There were measures taken to stabilize prices, make cost of living more affordable and build a more sustainable economy. The amendment to the Competition Act and the Competition Tribunal Act aims to modernize competition in Canada which would improve protections for consumers and workers. It will allow paid leave for workers who are in federally regulated positions in order to support families who have been affected by pregnancy loss.

On 19 December 2023, the Government of Canada announced new investments to help create jobs and grow businesses in Eastern Ontario. The Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario will provide over CAD33 million to support 11 businesses and organizations and over 160 jobs. Already over CAD190 million has also been used to support 70 businesses in Southern Ontario which is protecting around 4000 jobs.<sup>3278</sup>

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<sup>3274</sup> Government of Canada Invites Organizations to Apply for Funding to Help Empower Youth in Canada Through Volunteer Opportunities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 October 2023, Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-invites-organizations-to-apply-for-funding-to-help-empower-youth-in-canada-through-volunteer-opportunities1.html>

<sup>3275</sup> New funding opportunities available to help boost the social inclusion of persons with disabilities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 11 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/11/new-funding-opportunities-available-to-help-boost-the-social-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

<sup>3276</sup> Government of Canada invests to help Albertans improve their skills and find jobs in today's labour market, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2023. Access Date: 11 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2023/11/government-of-canada-invests-to-help-albertans-improve-their-skills-and-find-jobs-in-todays-labour-market.html>

<sup>3277</sup> Government of Canada Announces Legislation to Make Life More Affordable, Build More Homes, and Create Good Jobs for Canadians, 28 November 2023, Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2023/11/government-of-canada-announces-legislation-to-make-life-more-affordable-build-more-homes-and-create-good-jobs-for-canadians.html>

<sup>3278</sup> Government of Canada Investments Create Jobs and Grow Businesses in Eastern Ontario, Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (Ottawa) 19 December 2023. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2023/12/government-of-canada-investments-create-jobs-and-grow-businesses-in-eastern-ontario.html>

On 15 February 2024, Parliamentary Secretary Dabrusin attended the GLOBE Forum with the goal to champion sustainable and inclusive job creation.<sup>3279</sup> Parliamentary Secretary Dabrusin announced that along with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities there would be an investment of over CAD900,000 through the Green Municipal Fund to support around six local communities across British Columbia to reduce emissions and act on climate action projects.

On 29 February 2024, the Government of Canada announced additional investment in green energy jobs and success of women apprentices in 39 Red Seals trades, primarily in the construction and manufacturing sectors, through the Women in Skilled Trades Initiative.<sup>3280</sup>

On 7 March 2024, Minister Boissonnault announced CAD170 million in funding to support skills training for Indigenous people in Canada.<sup>3281</sup>

On 21 March 2024, the Government of Canada adjusted the temporary measures under the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program Workforce Solutions Road Map as the program experienced a surge in demand with the post pandemic economy.<sup>3282</sup> The increased labour shortages during the pandemic made the program implement policy changes. As of 1 May 2024, the labour market impact assessments will be valid for six months, employers identified in the program will have a reduction from 30 per cent to 20 per cent in the TFW program and employers will need to explore options including recruiting asylum seekers with work permits.

On 21 April 2024, Minister of Citizens' Services Terry Beech announced that the 2024 Federal Budget will allocation CAD60 million over a five-year period to empowering young entrepreneurs in Canada.<sup>3283</sup> The program will provide young entrepreneurs with access to financing and mentorship.

On 26 April 2024 the Employment and Social Development Canada shared news about the new budget the federal government delivered for 2024 titled, "Fairness for Every Generation."<sup>3284</sup> Minister of Labour Seamus O'Regan Jr. announced the plans to invest in technologies and support for increasing productivity. The key highlights include major economic investment tax credits to attract private investments to boost more jobs and reach Canada's net zero goal by the year 2050 and announcing changes to regulatory processes to speed up projects.

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<sup>3279</sup> Government of Canada Champions Sustainable Jobs, Inclusivity, Innovation at GLOBE Forum, Natural Resources Canada (Vancouver) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 16 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-champions-sustainable-jobs-inclusivity-innovation-at-globe-forum.html>

<sup>3280</sup> Employment and Social Development Canada 2024 to 2025 Departmental Plan, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 29 February 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/reports/departmental-plan/2024-2025.html>

<sup>3281</sup> Minister Boissonnault announces funding to support skills training for Indigenous people across Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2024/03/minister-boissonnault-announces-funding-to-support-skills-training-for-indigenous-people-across-canada.html>

<sup>3282</sup> Government of Canada to adjust temporary measures under the Temporary Foreign Worker Program Workforce Solutions Road Map 21, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 25 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2024/03/government-of-canada-to-adjust-temporary-measures-under-the-temporary-foreign-worker-program-workforce-solutions-road-map.html>

<sup>3283</sup> Minister of Citizens' Services highlights budget investments to support small businesses, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 21 April 2024. Access Date: 2 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2024/04/minister-of-citizens-services-highlights-budget-investments-to-support-small-businesses.html>

<sup>3284</sup> Minister of Labour Highlights Budget Investments to Boost Canadian innovation and productivity and drive economic growth, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 26 April 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2024/04/minister-of-labour-highlights-budget-investments-to-boost-canadian-innovation-and-productivity-and-drive-economic-growth.html>



On 2 May 2024, Minister of Northern Affairs, PrairiesCan and CanNor announced an investment of up to CAD341,600 in the Yukon Wood Products Association's Yukon Forest Resources Capacity Support Initiative to provide training and build new opportunities in Yukon's forest sector.<sup>3285</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. Canada has undertaken several measures aimed at accessibility, equal opportunities for women and youth, and creating more fair labour laws in the country.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shreya Ravi Shankar*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 3 June 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Full Employment and Integration announced a 2023-2025 multi-year plan for the labour inspectorate around its goal of protecting the fundamental rights of workers, notably the most vulnerable.<sup>3286</sup> For the second half of 2023, the Ministry launched an information, awareness, and control campaign intended to prevent risks regarding the use of mobile work equipment and lifting, particularly compliance with obligations that make it possible to avoid collisions between equipment and pedestrians.<sup>3287</sup> Labour inspectors will carry out controls between November 2023 and January 2024 to ensure compliance.

On 25 July 2023, Minister Delegate Carole Grandjean launched the first version of the platform of Validation of Acquired Experience (France VAE) as a reform to the pre-existing VAE program, which allows workers to be certified through experience without requiring additional schooling.<sup>3288</sup> The new system will bring together more than 50 institutional players and 200 certifications, and is estimated to benefit 100,000 people each year.

On 19 September 2023, Minister of Labour, Full Employment, and Integration Olivier Dussopt, President of the Education, Orientation, Training and Employment Commission of the Regions of France François Bonneau and Deputy President of the Commission David Margueritte announced additional state funding to train people seeking jobs.<sup>3289</sup> EUR3.9 billion will be provided over the next four years to the Regions of France. This funding aims to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups, including unemployed individuals who need additional training for their desired job, those whose professions are in short supply, and young people who have not obtained the bac+2 level.

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<sup>3285</sup> Minister Vandal announces investment supporting Yukon's forest industry, Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (Whitehorse) 2 May 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/northern-economic-development/news/2024/05/minister-vandal-announces-investment-supporting-yukons-forest-industry.html>

<sup>3286</sup> Les campagnes de l'Inspection du travail, Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 6 March 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/droit-du-travail/inspection-du-travail/article/les-campagnes-de-l-inspection-du-travail>

<sup>3287</sup> Campagne 2023 de l'inspection du travail : L'utilisation des équipements de travail mobiles et de levage, Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 18 October 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/campagne-2023-de-l-inspection-du-travail-l-utilisation-des-equipements-de>

<sup>3288</sup> Reconversions et évolutions professionnelles : lancement de la version Beta de « France VAE », Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 26 July 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/reconversions-et-evolutions-professionnelles-lancement-de-la-version-beta-de-france-vae-378871>

<sup>3289</sup> Lancement du nouveau cycle d'investissement dans la formation des demandeurs d'emploi 2024-2027, Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 22 September 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/lancement-du-nouveau-cycle-d-investisement-dans-la-formation-des-demandeurs-d>

On 25 September 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Full Employment, and Integration launched a national communications campaign to raise awareness among business, employees and the general public about the risks of accidents at work.<sup>3290</sup> In order to continue its commitment to fight against workplace accidents, the Ministry of Labour, Full Employment and Integration released a 30-second advertisement and promoted vigilance through the radio, radio column, fliers, posters, and social networks.<sup>3291</sup> On 14 November 2023, the Ministry of Labor, Full Employment, and Integration and the Foundation Action Against Exclusion signed a partnership agreement that promotes the integration or retention of vulnerable groups in employment.<sup>3292</sup> The agreement targets people in a situation of illiteracy, seniors benefitting from obligation of employment of disabled workers, people placed under the control of the justice system and those navigating the paths of integration through economic activity.

On 14 November 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion signed a partnership agreement with the Act Against Exclusion Foundation (FACE) to work together with FACE clubs, companies and employees to promote more new employment opportunities for and better retention of vulnerable populations, especially seniors, persons with disabilities, those who are illiterate and persons under state supervision.<sup>3293</sup>

On 23 November 2023, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion announced that in the last school year, vocational high schools had undergone reforms to ensure better training, resources and opportunities for students in order to better prepare them for the job market.<sup>3294</sup>

On 29 December 2023, Minister Dussopt announced an increase in the minimum hourly wage to EUR8.30, up from EUR8.21 previously.<sup>3295</sup> The Government also increased the long-term partial allowance from EUR9.12 to EUR9.22. Given the pandemic, long-term partial work has become more common, and these measures allocate more to long-term partial workers.

On 23 February 2024, Minister of Labour, Health and Solidarity Catherine Vautrin announced the inclusion of the following agricultural professions in the list of professions in shortage: salaried farmers, employed breeders, market gardeners, salaried horticulturists, salaried wine growers and salaried arborists.<sup>3296</sup> This guarantees work authorizations to non-resident foreigners from outside the EU. This will speed up the recruitment procedure for them.

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<sup>3290</sup> Une campagne pour la sécurité au travail, Site officiel du Gouvernement (Paris) 27 September 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/une-campagne-pour-la-securite-au-travail>

<sup>3291</sup> Stop aux accidents du travail graves et mortels : une campagne pour la sécurité au travail, Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 25 September 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 October 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/sante-au-travail/stop-aux-accidents-du-travail-graves-et-mortels/>

<sup>3292</sup> Signature d'un partenariat entre le ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion et la Fondation agir contre l'exclusion, Ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 14 November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/signature-d-un-partenariat-entre-le-ministere-du-travail-du-plein-emploi-et-de>

<sup>3293</sup> Signature d'un partenariat entre le ministère du Travail, du Plein emploi et de l'Insertion et la Fondation agir contre l'exclusion, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 14 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023.

<sup>3294</sup> Réforme des lycées professionnels - Rentrée 2024 : Un parcours de terminale adapté au projet des élèves, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de l'Insertion (Paris) 23 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 December 2023. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/reforme-des-lycees-professionnels-rentree-2024-un-parcours-de-terminale-adapte>

<sup>3295</sup> Activité partielle : Revalorisation du plancher taux horaire (Paris) 29 December 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/activite-partielle-revalorisation-du-plancher-taux-horaire>

<sup>3296</sup> Ajout des métiers agricoles dans la liste des métiers en tension (Paris) 26 February 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiques-de-presse/article/ajout-des-metiers-agricoles-dans-la-liste-des-metiers-en-tension>

On 21 March 2024, Minister Vautrin, Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion and Delegate Minister of Transport Patrice Vergriete and Secretary of State for the Sea and Biodiversity Hervé Berville signed an application of the “Le Gac” decree to improve maritime working conditions.<sup>3297</sup> The law requires passenger-carrying ships operating regular international lines serving French cross-channel ports to respect minimum salary conditions.

On 8 April 2024, Minister for Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire met with Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy Adolfo Urso and German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck to discuss strategies to boost green energy and digital technologies development to enhance productivity and job creation in Europe.<sup>3298</sup> The three ministers committed to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic burdens on European businesses for innovation, boost private and public investment in these new sectors, and diversify their economic base and trading partners.

On 11 April 2024, Minister Vautrin launched and chaired the first National Employment Committee, bringing together employers and trade union organizations, representatives of local authorities and representatives of employment and integration stakeholders to improve support for both job seekers and employers.<sup>3299</sup> This committee aims to strengthen the effectiveness of support for job seekers and strengthen cooperation between different parties in the employment process through a new governance framework, all while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable groups, namely youth, seniors and those with disabilities.

France has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. France has taken strong action to invest in skills training and education particularly for the most vulnerable, providing them with a better employment outlook. France has also taken strong action to improve the quality of employment but enacting laws that ensure fair and safe working conditions.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alisha Aslam*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 12 June 2023, Coordinator for Maritime Economy and Tourism Dieter Janecek announced additional maritime research funding programs which will promote the protection of the climate, develop maritime security technologies, and create new skilled jobs in Germany.<sup>3300</sup>

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<sup>3297</sup> Dumping social : signature du décret visant à renforcer la protection sociale des gens de mer sur les liaisons transmanche, Ministère du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités (Paris) 21 March 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/dossiers-de-presse/article/dumping-social-signature-du-decret-visant-a-renforcer-la-protection-sociale-des>

<sup>3298</sup> France, Italy and Germany call to foster the development of green and digital technologies to enhance European competitiveness and productivity, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (Rome) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 2 May 2024. <https://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/france-italy-and-germany-call-to-foster-the-development-of-green-and-digital-technologies-to-enhance-european-competitiveness-and-productivity>

<sup>3299</sup> Catherine Vautrin, ministre du Travail, de la Santé et des Solidarités a lancé le Comité national pour l'emploi (Paris) 11 April 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/catherine-vautrin-ministre-du-travail-de-la-sante-et-des-solidarites-a-lance-le>

<sup>3300</sup> Maritime Statustagung: Mit voller Kraft in die Zukunft, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (Berlin) 12 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2023/12/20231206-maritime-statustagung.html>

On 23 June 2023, the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany passed a new article on attracting skilled labour workers.<sup>3301</sup> Due to a significant labour shortage, the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany to partially utilize a similar system to that of Canada: a points system to consider professional experience, especially for individuals in the field of information technology during the immigration process for job seekers, thereby creating more jobs in the economy. An influx of skilled labour is intended to create more entrepreneurship and jobs across sectors.

On 13 September 2023, the Federal Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Social Innovations and Social Enterprises with the objective of improving small- and medium-enterprises access to financial support and eliminating financial and legal challenges that impair entrepreneurship.<sup>3302</sup>

On 1 November 2023, the Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany allowed individuals to collect their receipts and pin letters for online identity cards digitally to make it easier for governments and companies to verify individuals.<sup>3303</sup> This will reduce the wait-time for job seekers and increase employment.

On 7 December 2023, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced that there will be a permanent reintroduction of provisions to allow individuals to secure medical leave through telephone.<sup>3304</sup> There are many conditions which include that patient must not have severe symptoms; patients must be personally known in the doctor's practice and that it is not. It is not possible to determine the inability to work as per video consultation.

On 1 January 2024, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs legalized the requirement of the Act to Promote an Inclusive Job Market to pass in May 2023, companies that employ more than 20 people are required to hire severely disabled individuals.<sup>3305</sup> If this is not complied, there is a levy that must be paid. The minimum monthly rate is also up from EUR360 to EUR720.

On 28 February 2024, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs renewed its Joint Declaration of Intent with South Africa.<sup>3306</sup> The agreement seeks to secure a sufficient supply of skills workers in both countries, the development of inclusive labour markets, and better social protection for workers vulnerable from the green energy and digital economy transitions.

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<sup>3301</sup>German Lawmakers Approve a Plan to Attract Skilled Workers to Plug the Country's Labour Gap, 23 June 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.euronews.com/2023/06/23/german-lawmakers-approve-a-plan-to-attract-skilled-workers-to-plug-the-countrys-labor-gap>

<sup>3302</sup> Federal cabinet adopts National Strategy for Social Innovations and Social Enterprises, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action of Germany (Berlin) 13 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 December 2023. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2023/09/20230913-federal-cabinet-adopts-national-strategy-for-social-innovations-and-social-enterprises.html>

<sup>3303</sup>German Lawmakers Approve a Plan to Attract Skilled Workers to Plug the Country's Labour Gap, 23 June 2023. Access Date: 7 November 2023. <https://www.euronews.com/2023/06/23/german-lawmakers-approve-a-plan-to-attract-skilled-workers-to-plug-the-countrys-labor-gap>

<sup>3304</sup> German Employment Law Changes for 2024, 22 January 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://ogletree.com/insights-resources/blog-posts/german-employment-law-changes-for-2024/>

<sup>3305</sup> These Changes in German Employment Law Are Coming in 2024, 9 January 2024. Access Date: 6 March 2024. <https://ogletree.de/blog-posts/these-changes-in-german-employment-law-are-coming-in-2024/?lang=en>

<sup>3306</sup> Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and Department of Employment and Labour of South Africa renew their Joint Declaration of Intent, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 28 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2024/ministry-renew-their-joint-declaration-of-intent-south-africa.html>

On 1 March 2024, State Secretary Lilian Tschan met with Indonesian Labour Minister Dr Ida Fauziyah counterpart to discuss ways to improve recruitment of skills workers across the two countries.<sup>3307</sup> They both agreed that greater jobs training was essential for creating an inclusive energy transition.

On 5 March 2024, the German government announced the Act on the Further Development of Skilled Immigration, a law focusing on attracting non-EU skilled workers to avoid labour shortage.<sup>3308</sup>

On 1 April 2024, the Federal Employment Agency offered training allowances for employees in companies who have been impacted by substantial structural changes.<sup>3309</sup> There is also a major change to providing subsidized career orientations to young people deciding on career choices.

On 8 April 2024, Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck met with French Minister for Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire and Italian Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy Adolfo Urso to discuss strategies to boost green energy and digital technologies development to enhance productivity and job creation in Europe.<sup>3310</sup> The three ministers committed to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic burdens on European businesses for innovation, boost private and public investment in these new sectors, and diversify their economic base and trading partners.

On 15 April 2024, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs met with a Ukrainian delegation to discuss ways to integrate Ukrainian refugees into the German labour market in an appropriate and sustainable fashion with the objective to minimize unemployment and promote economic growth for all.<sup>3311</sup> Germany agreed to help support Ukrainian refugees with their efforts to find meaningful employment in Germany by offering more vocational and skills training services.<https://natlawreview.com/article/german-employment-law-changes-2024>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. Germany has taken strong action to fill job shortages by collaborating with other countries to expedite immigration requirements for foreign workers. It has also encouraged entrepreneurship by providing greater financial support to small- and medium-enterprises.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shreya Ravi Shankar*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 31 May 2023, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy allocated over EUR1.1 billion for financing the Development Contracts as per the 2023 Budget Law.<sup>3312</sup> This significant financial commitment is aimed at

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<sup>3307</sup> Partnership with Indonesia strengthened, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2024/partnership-with-indonesia-strengthened.html>

<sup>3308</sup> Germany is expanding and simplifying access to the labour market, German Missions in Canada (Ottawa) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://canada.diplo.de/ca-en/-/2248702>

<sup>3309</sup> German Employment Law Changes for 2024, The National Law Review (Chicago) 22 January 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://natlawreview.com/article/german-employment-law-changes-2024>

<sup>3310</sup> France, Italy and Germany call to foster the development of green and digital technologies to enhance European competitiveness and productivity, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (Rome) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 2 May 2024. <https://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/france-italy-and-germany-call-to-foster-the-development-of-green-and-digital-technologies-to-enhance-european-competitiveness-and-productivity>

<sup>3311</sup> Visit by a Ukrainian delegation on vocational training and skills development, Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 2 May 2024. <https://www.bmas.de/EN/Services/Press/recent-publications/2024/visit-by-a-ukrainian-delegation-on-vocational-training-skills-development.html>

<sup>3312</sup> Stanziati oltre 1,1 miliardi per finanziare i contratti di sviluppo, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (Rome) [Date not provided]. Access Date: 9 November 2023. [www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/over-1-1-billion-allocated-for-financing-development-contracts](http://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/over-1-1-billion-allocated-for-financing-development-contracts)

supporting large-scale productive, strategic, and innovative investment programs which is expected to drive job growth in these high-value sectors.

On 2 August 2023, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport and the Ministry of Education and Merit (entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane Group.<sup>3313</sup> This agreement is designed to enhance collaboration between educational institutions and the business sector to address the skills mismatch in the workforce.

On 12 September 2023, the Senate approved a motion on safety in the workplace.<sup>3314</sup> The goal of the legislation is to improve working conditions by raising the safety standards that companies ought to oblige.

On 13 October 2023, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni released a press statement with President of the Republic of the Congo in which they reaffirmed their commitment to improve development of rural towns in the Congo with a particular focus on education and skills training.<sup>3315</sup>

On 12 January 2024, Italy and Japan signed an agreement on social security to reduce the burden of compulsory pension problems imposed on companies and employees by establishing clear, standard eligibility rules for pension benefits.<sup>3316</sup> The agreement is anticipated to facilitate greater economic exchange and labour mobility between the two countries.

On 19 February 2024, Italy received approval for funding from the European Investment Bank for EUR100 million to the Enel Italia Climate Action FL II project, which aims to support renewable energy projects in Italy.<sup>3317</sup> The project is anticipated to have a positive impact as it will promote new jobs in the renewable energy sector in Italy.

On 22 February 2024, Minister of Labour and Social Policies Marina Calderone stressed the progress to prioritise the issue of skills required to support the work supply chain under the ageing population and the need of artificial intelligence in the labour market.<sup>3318</sup> Minister Calderone outlined Plan for New Skills, included in the National Recovery and Resilience Plan that aims to raise skill level. This plan is broken down into several programmes, such as the Worker Employability Guarantee. This initiative focuses on training and retraining of the long-term unemployed, young people, women, and those over the age of 55.

On 28 February 2024, Minister of Education and Merit Giuseppe Valditara and the Minister Calderone renewed Joint Declaration of Intent with Germany's Federal Minister of Education and Research Bettina Stark-Watzinger and the Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Hubertus Heil.<sup>3319</sup> The renewal finalized fields

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<sup>3313</sup> Lavoro e nuove competenze: MIT, MIM e FS italiane firmano Protocollo d'intesa per promuovere collaborazione tra scuola e imprese, Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiano (Rome) 2 August 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.fsitaliane.it/content/fsitaliane/it/media/comunicati-stampa/2023/8/2/mit-mim-fs-italiane-firmano-protocollo-d-intesa.html>

<sup>3314</sup> Legislatura 19<sup>a</sup> - Atto di Sindacato Ispettivo n. 1-00071, Senato (Rome) 12 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 November 2023. <https://www.senato.it/japp/bgt/showdoc/showText?tipodoc=Sindisp&leg=14&id=27209>

<sup>3315</sup> Dichiarazioni con il Presidente della Repubblica del Congo, L'intervento del Presidente Meloni, Government of Italy (Rome) 13 October 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 11 December 2023.

<sup>3316</sup> Signing of the Agreement between Japan and the Italian Republic on Social Security to enter into force, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. [https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease\\_nenink20240112\\_00002.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease_nenink20240112_00002.html)

<sup>3317</sup> ENEL ITALIA CLIMATE ACTION FL II, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/projects/pipelines/all/20230749>

<sup>3318</sup> Calderone at the OECD Summit on skills (Brussels) 22 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/g7-labour/news/calderone-oecd-summit-skills>

<sup>3319</sup> Signing of the Italian-German Joint Declaration of Intent, 28 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/g7-labour/news/signing-italian-german-joint-declaration-intent>

of education and professional training, public employment services and active labour market policies in support of digital and green transitions.

On 29 February 2024, Minister Calderone met with Minister for Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova Alexei Buzu to discuss bilateral issues such as implementation of cross-nation collaboration of inspection agencies responsible for health and safety at workplaces.<sup>3320</sup> This discussion also specifically amplifies the Moldovan companies and workers who operate in large numbers in Italy and specifically in the construction sector.<sup>3321</sup>

On 8 April 2024, Minister of Enterprises and Made in Italy Adolfo Urso met with French Minister for Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty Bruno Le Maire and German Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck to discuss strategies to boost green energy and digital technologies development to enhance productivity and job creation in Europe.<sup>3322</sup> The three ministers committed to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic burdens on European businesses for innovation, boost private and public investment in these new sectors, and diversify their economic base and trading partners.

On 19 April 2024, Minister of Labour and Social Policy Calderone attended a meeting on combatting poverty and unemployment with 15 ministers of labour and social policies as well as representatives of international organisations in the Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in Washington.<sup>3323</sup> Minister Calderone championed the potential of Italy's tools in supporting socially vulnerable individuals to the World Bank, especially on skills turnover and retraining that is impacted by the rise of artificial intelligence.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. Italy has sought to improve education and skills training to boost quality employment, specifically for youth and vulnerable populations. Further, it has collaborated with other countries to develop and improve employment opportunities worldwide.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Chiara Barsanti and Wei-Tung Ling*

## **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 27 May 2023, Japan, along with the rest of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF), announced the IPEF Supply Chain Agreement that aims to increase the “resilience, efficiency, productivity, sustainability, transparency, diversification, security, fairness, and inclusivity” of international supply chains.<sup>3324</sup> Under this agreement, an IPEF Labor Rights Advisory Board would be established in order to promote labor rights in supply chains and investment in businesses that specifically respect labor rights.

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<sup>3320</sup> “A warm operational” meeting was held between the Minister for Labour and Social Policies Marina Calderone and her Moldovan counterpart Alexei Buzu (Via Veneto) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/g7-labour/news/warm-operational-meeting-was-held-between-minister-labour-and-social-policies-marina-calderone>

<sup>3321</sup> “A warm operational” meeting was held between the Minister for Labour and Social Policies Marina Calderone and her Moldovan counterpart Alexei Buzu (Via Veneto) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/g7-labour/news/warm-operational-meeting-was-held-between-minister-labour-and-social-policies-marina-calderone>

<sup>3322</sup> France, Italy and Germany call to foster the development of green and digital technologies to enhance European competitiveness and productivity, Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (Rome) 8 April 2024. Access Date: 2 May 2024. <https://www.mimit.gov.it/en/media-tools/news/france-italy-and-germany-call-to-foster-the-development-of-green-and-digital-technologies-to-enhance-european-competitiveness-and-productivity>

<sup>3323</sup> Interest in inclusion measures adopted in Italy at Washington Spring Meetings (Washington, D.C.) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 29 April 2024. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/g7-labour/news/interest-inclusion-measures-adopted-italy-washington-spring-meetings>

<sup>3324</sup> Press Statement on the Substantial Conclusion of IPEF Supply Chain Agreement Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 27 May 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100510680.pdf>

On 9 June 2023, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced an expansion of Japan's policies toward Specified Skilled Workers at the 16th meeting of the Ministerial Council on Acceptance and Inclusion of Foreign Human Resources.<sup>3325</sup> Prime Minister Kishida relayed that the council had decided to expand the scope of fields for the Specified Skilled Workers Program to address worsening domestic labor shortages and to develop the current Technical Intern Training Program in order to promote more welcoming environments for foreign nationals to work in Japan.

On 22 October 2023, Japan and the World Bank, along with Italy, the Republic of Korea, Canada, and the United Kingdom, launched the Resilient and Inclusive Supply-chain Enhancement (RISE) initiative that aims to create quality local jobs and economic growth in emerging markets and developing countries.<sup>3326</sup> The RISE initiative will specifically target support for manufacturing of clean-energy products and participation in the minerals industry.

On 28 October 2023, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism released a joint media statement of discussions between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -Japan Tourism Ministers.<sup>3327</sup> Talks between the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to promoting sustainable tourism, which involves implementing initiatives that increase tourism-related job opportunities and fostering socioeconomic inclusion.

On 13 November 2023, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs revealed its commitment to the IPEF for Prosperity Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience in order to better support international supply chain development.<sup>3328</sup> The agreement identifies supply chain development as a source for quality job creation and establishes an IPEF Supply Chain Council composed of one official from the relevant level of government of each IPEF party part of the agreement.

On 13 November 2023, Japan, as part of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), released a joint statement following an annual meeting among the APEC Finance Ministers that summarized discussions on strengthening global growth, sustainable finance, among other relevant commitments.<sup>3329</sup> In the statement, the members of APEC affirmed their intention to support macroeconomic policies that address labor supply and inter-member collaboration that stimulates job creation.

On 27 November 2023, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasushi Hosaka met with Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Zavgorodnii Dmytro to discuss digital development and education initiatives.<sup>3330</sup> The two reaffirmed Japan's commitment to strength Ukraine's human capital through its education sector.

On 12 January 2024, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced that Japan and Italy signed an agreement on social security to reduce the burden of compulsory pension problems imposed on companies

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<sup>3325</sup> Ministerial Council on Acceptance and Inclusion of Foreign Human Resources, Prime Minister's Office of Japan (Tokyo) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101\\_kishida/actions/202306/09gaikoku.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/actions/202306/09gaikoku.html)

<sup>3326</sup> World Bank and Japan to Boost Mineral Investments and Jobs in Clean Energy, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 22 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international\\_policy/mdbs/wb/20231011.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international_policy/mdbs/wb/20231011.pdf)

<sup>3327</sup> Joint Media Statement of the ASEAN-Japan Tourism Ministers' Special Dialogue, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (Tokyo) 28 October 2023. <https://www.mlit.go.jp/kankocho/content/001706972.pdf>

<sup>3328</sup> Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 13 November 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100581548.pdf>

<sup>3329</sup> Joint Statement on the 2023 APEC Finance Ministers' Meeting San Francisco, California, November 13, 2023, Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 13 November 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international\\_policy/convention/apec/20231113\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international_policy/convention/apec/20231113_1.pdf)

<sup>3330</sup> Courtesy Call on Mr. Hosaka, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs by Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 27 November 2023. Access Date: 1 March 2024. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite\\_000001\\_00001.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/pressite_000001_00001.html)



and employees by establishing clear, standard eligibility rules for pension benefits.<sup>3331</sup> The agreement is anticipated to facilitate greater economic exchange and labour mobility between the two countries.

On 19 January 2024, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced that Japan and the Republic of Austria signed an agreement on social security to reduce the burden of compulsory pension problems imposed on companies and employees by establishing clear, standard eligibility rules for pension benefits.<sup>3332</sup>

On 10 April 2024, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan Ken Saito and Senior Advisor to the US President for International Climate Policy John Podesta met for a ministerial policy dialogue on the shared goals carried out between the US Inflation Reduction Act and Japan's Green Transformation Promotion Strategy.<sup>3333</sup> During the dialogue, both parties reaffirmed their intent to collaborate on promoting clean energy by driving economic growth, emission reductions and job creation. However, no specific commitments were made to further this goal.

On 19 April 2024, the Ministry of Finance released a statement following a meeting from the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund met to discuss Japan's contributions to the World Bank Group.<sup>3334</sup> The statement revealed Japan's intention to contribute USD2 million to the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency's West Bank and Gaza Trust Fund to support private investments and thereby create jobs and increase tax revenue.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. Japan has taken clear, tangible steps toward supporting international job creation through means beyond just verbal agreements, most prominently through international agreements and initiatives. However, it has not taken sufficient action to create quality jobs domestically.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mia Xie*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 25 May 2023, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business Kevin Hollinrake announced a boost in protection in workers' rights for parents and unpaid carers.<sup>3335</sup> Parents and caregivers will benefit from up to 12 weeks of paid neonatal care leave for employed parents whose children are admitted to neonatal care; redundancy protection for pregnant women and new parents with the extension of existing it to cover pregnancy and a period of time after parents return to work; and a new entitlement for unpaid carers to a week of flexible unpaid leave a year for those who are caring for a dependant with a long-term care need.

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<sup>3331</sup> Signing of the Agreement between Japan and the Italian Republic on Social Security to enter into force, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease\\_nenkink20240112\\_00002.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease_nenkink20240112_00002.html)

<sup>3332</sup> Signing of the Agreement between Japan and the Republic of Austria on Social Security, Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (Tokyo) 19 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease\\_nenkink20240119\\_00002.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/pressrelease_nenkink20240119_00002.html)

<sup>3333</sup> Minister Saito Holds a Policy Dialogue with Senior Advisor to the U.S. President Podesta, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0411\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0411_002.html)

<sup>3334</sup> Japan's Statement at the 109th Meeting of the Development Committee (Joint Ministerial Committee of the Boards of Governors of the Bank and the Fund) (Washington, D.C. - April 19, 2024), Ministry of Finance (Tokyo) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 25 April 2024. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international\\_policy/imf/dc/20240419\\_2.html](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/policy/international_policy/imf/dc/20240419_2.html)

<sup>3335</sup> Workers' rights wins for parents and carers, Department for Business and Trade (London) 25 May 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/workers-rights-wins-for-parents-and-carers>

On 30 June 2023, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced government support of the National Health Service Long-Term Workforce Plan.<sup>3336</sup> This 15-year plan funded by the government aims to expand the number of trained doctors and nurses by investing over GBP2.4 billion in expansion of education and training for the first five years in full. The plan projects medical training places to double in number by 2031 and train over 24,000 more nurses and midwives a year. In addition, the plan will increase the number of General Practice training places by 50 per cent.<sup>3337</sup> Additionally, to ensure job creation persists upon the introduction of virtual wards, the plan includes an expansion of nurse associate and physician associate roles.

On 11 July 2023, Minister for Disability, Health and Labour Tom Pursglove announced New Adjustments Passports, a support scheme intended for hundreds of sick and disabled Armed Forces leavers' to start and stay in work.<sup>3338</sup> The passport provides a transferable record of any workplace adjustments the service leaver may need. Notably, all of this will be assured without the need for reassessment. This delivers on a priority articulated by the Government to remove barriers to transitioning into work and moving between jobs.

On 13 July 2023, Prime Minister Sunak, Education Secretary Gillian Keegan and the General Secretaries of the four education unions released a joint statement on Teachers' pay.<sup>3339</sup> The Government accepted a 6.5 per cent increase for teacher and school leader salaries proposed by the School Teachers' Review Body.<sup>3340</sup> This measure was followed by Prime Minister Sunak's statement on public sector review, in which he expressed comments on this final negotiation as a result of the previous ongoing teaching union strikes.<sup>3341</sup> The raise will reward most teachers who have been in the profession for 30 years and will boost starting salaries for new teachers to at least GBP 30,000.<sup>3342</sup>

On 20 July 2023, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business Hollinrake announced the achievement of Royal Assent of the Employment Relations (Flexible Working) Bill.<sup>3343</sup> Once the Bill is in effect, it will enforce new requirements for employers to consult with the employee before rejecting their flexible working request. For employees, it will permit them to make two statutory requests in any 12-month period and reduce waiting times for these decisions to be made from three months to two months. In addition, millions of workers will be given the right to request flexible working from day one of a new job. These regulations will create 2.2 million more employment opportunities under the scope of the entitlement.

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<sup>3336</sup> PM speech launching the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan: 30 June 2023, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-speech-launching-the-nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-30-june-2023>

<sup>3337</sup> What the NHS Long Term Workforce Plan means for you, National Health Service (London) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-the-nhs-long-term-workforce-plan-means-for-you>

<sup>3338</sup> New jobs "passport" for injured or disabled veterans, Department for Work and Trade (London) 11 July 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-jobs-passport-for-injured-or-disabled-veterans>

<sup>3339</sup> Joint Statement on Teachers' Pay: 13 July 2023, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-on-teachers-pay-13-july-2023>

<sup>3340</sup> Teacher strikes: Everything you need to know about the 2023/24 teacher pay award, Department for Education (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/13/teacher-strikes-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2023-24-teacher-pay-award/>

<sup>3341</sup> PM statement on public sector pay review: 13 July 2023, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-statement-on-public-sector-pay-review-13-july-2023>

<sup>3342</sup> Teacher strikes: Everything you need to know about the 2023/24 teacher pay award, Department for Education (London) 13 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/07/13/teacher-strikes-everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-2023-24-teacher-pay-award/>

<sup>3343</sup> Millions to benefit from new flexible working measures, Department for Business and Trade (London) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-to-benefit-from-new-flexible-working-measures>

On 25 September 2023, Minister for Social Mobility, Youth and Progression Mims Davies announced the expansion of the Youth Offer for economically inactive young people.<sup>3344</sup> This expansion will give over 30,000 16–24-year-olds access to a Work Coach, Youth Hubs and Youth Employability Coaches. This is intended to improve youth access to employment opportunities and increase skills training.

On 4 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced the new Advanced British Standard, a new qualification for individuals aged 16–19 that puts technical and academic education on equal footing.<sup>3345</sup> Every student will be expected to study maths and English up to the age of 18. With an initial funding boost of GBP600 million, schools and colleges will be able to support teacher recruitment and retention as well as enable more students pass the maths and English GCSE, setting them up for future educational and employment opportunities.

On 4 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak stated his plan to launch Network North, a GBP36 billion commitment to creating a new transport connectivity.<sup>3346</sup> This investment is composed of multiple projects in towns, cities and rural areas across the country that improve efficiency in roads, rail and buses. Hence, this creates more opportunities for jobs in the transport sector. Further funding will be made available to ease connectivity between towns and cities across Scotland and Wales, allowing for quick access to jobs and services those residents need.

On 26 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced the creation of the world's first ever Global Artificial Intelligence (AI). Summit as part of a two-fold plan to address the risks surrounding AI globally.<sup>3347</sup> This entailed his subsequent announcement of the creation of the world's first ever AI Safety Institute. The Prime Minister stated by investing in safe AI and growing the UK's role to lead this change globally, the country will attract new jobs and investment from this new wave of technology.

On 30 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak and Education Secretary Keegan announced a GBP2 million investment in Oak National Academy to support teachers with high-quality curriculum resources online and create new teaching tools using Artificial Intelligence (AI).<sup>3348</sup> This investment is intended to support Oak National Academy with the development of these tools, then make them available to teachers across England for free. This will provide to teachers a personalized AI lesson-planning assistant, which will support the ambition of the Government, teachers, and experts on the Workload Taskforce to reduce working hours for teachers by five hours per week.

On 31 October 2023, Prime Minister Sunak, the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Transport announced significant cost of living support ahead of winter, which includes GBP3.5 billion worth of measures to break down the barriers to work for those experiencing poverty.<sup>3349</sup> This largely consists of the

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<sup>3344</sup> Government announced employment support boost for over 30,000 economically inactive young people, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 25 September 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-employment-support-boost-for-over-30-000-economically-inactive-young-people>

<sup>3345</sup> New qualifications to deliver world class education for all, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 4 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-qualifications-to-deliver-world-class-education-for-all>

<sup>3346</sup> What the plan to launch Network North means for you, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 4 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/what-the-plan-to-launch-network-north-means-for-you>

<sup>3347</sup> Prime Minister's speech on AI: 26 October 2023, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 26 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-speech-on-ai-26-october-2023>

<sup>3348</sup> New support for teachers powered by Artificial Intelligence, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 30 October 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-support-for-teachers-powered-by-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>3349</sup> PM continues to support families with cost of living ahead of winter, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 31 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-continues-to-support-families-with-cost-of-living-ahead-of-winter>

Universal Support scheme that is expected to provide jobs for thousands more people with the aid of a personal advisor for up to a year.

On 5 November 2023, Prime Minister Sunak announced further steps to support the UK's transition to net zero.<sup>3350</sup> In confirming licensing opportunities that bolster energy security, these steps will invest in securing 200,000 jobs in the energy industry.

On 15 November 2023, Minister Pursglove announced a new Government planner to aid hundreds of thousands of students with disabilities who are currently attending university and higher education with their transition into work.<sup>3351</sup> The planner will negate the need for repeated assessments for health support adjustment by collating the relevant needs of students which can simply be passed on to employers. It will also provide advice to employers on the types of funding and government support that is available for these disabled employees.

On 16 November 2023, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Mel Stride unveiled their Back to Work Plan as part of the Autumn Statement.<sup>3352</sup> Over the next five years, the Plan aims to benefit 1.1 million people with mental or physical health conditions in maintaining or finding employment. The Plan also includes exploring reforms of the fit note system to make it more efficient for people to get specialised work and health support. It will also expand the availability of treatment and employment support.

On 16 November 2023, the Government formally launched the WorkWell service to help people start, stay and succeed in work.<sup>3353</sup> Announced at the past Spring Budget, the service will support 60,000 people with long-term sickness or disability in 15 areas across England. In the coming weeks, the prospectus that will be launched will provide information for all Integrated Care Systems across England to develop their localised work and health strategy.

On 22 November 2023, the Department for Work and Pensions announced a Chance to Work Guarantee, a measure providing claimants with long-term sickness or disabilities claimants to work without fear of reassessment or losing health benefit top-ups.<sup>3354</sup> With the Chance to Work Guarantee, claimants will benefit from boosted Work Allowances; claimants with long-term sickness or disabilities will be able to keep GBP404 of earnings every month without this affecting their welfare payments.

On 5 February 2024, Minister Davies announced a new Disability Action Plan upon consulting over 1,300 persons with disabilities, their families and stakeholders.<sup>3355</sup> This plan outlines 32 actions to make the UK a more accessible place for persons with disabilities to live and work. The plan includes new funds for people with disabilities who want to run for office, education for businesses on the legal rights of assistance dog owners and easier reporting methods for assistance dog owners when they are refused access to a business.

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<sup>3350</sup> New opportunities for North Sea oil and gas, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (London) 5 November 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-opportunities-for-north-sea-oil-and-gas>

<sup>3351</sup> New Government Planner to help thousands of disabled university students into work, Department of Work and Pensions (London) 15 November 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-planner-to-help-thousands-of-disabled-university-students-into-work>

<sup>3352</sup> Employment support launched for over a million people, Department of Work and Pensions (London) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employment-support-launched-for-over-a-million-people>

<sup>3353</sup> Employment support launched for over a million people, Department of Work and Pensions (London) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employment-support-launched-for-over-a-million-people>

<sup>3354</sup> New 'Chance to Work Guarantee' will remove barriers to work for millions, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 22 November 2023. Access date: 2 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-chance-to-work-guarantee-will-remove-barriers-to-work-for-millions>

<sup>3355</sup> New Disability Action Plan to make UK most accessible place in the world, Disability Unit (London) 5 February 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-disability-action-plan-to-make-uk-most-accessible-place-in-the-world>

On 21 February 2024, Minister for Employment Jo Churchill and Minister for Health and Social Care Helen Whately announced the creation of an occupational health taskforce to educate employers on the benefits of occupational health in the workplace.<sup>3356</sup> This furthers the government's commitment to tackle in-work sickness and help people stay in work. The project is one of ten funded by the government's recent Occupational Health Innovation Fund of GBP1 million. Led by the Government's new Occupational Health Tsar Dame Carol Black, the taskforce aims to improve long-term worker health and help businesses support workers returning to work after a period of ill-health.

On 21 March 2024, Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education Robert Halfon gave a speech at the Lifelong Education Institute's Skills Matter event.<sup>3357</sup> He highlighted national priorities for adult education such as community learning and career guidance. He highlighted the many government programs in place, such as skills bootcamps and the National Careers Service, that help adults build sector-specific skills and build qualifications for employment.

On 6 April 2024, Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business Hollinrake and Minister for Employment Churchill announced legislation granting new rights at work for parents and carers.<sup>3358</sup> Families will benefit from new redundancy protections for pregnant women and new parents and a new flexible paternity leave and pay.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. The United Kingdom has made significant advancements in expanding domestic growth and creating new, quality jobs in these areas. Significantly, many of its efforts are directed towards supporting those who currently face hardship in employment and providing them the financial and emotional guidance they need to succeed. The United Kingdom has also taken significant actions towards improving labour laws and providing skills trainings to help employees retain meaningful employment.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alisha Aslam*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 27 July 2023, the Department of Education and Labor announced that it will expand Registered Apprenticeships for educators and contribute further investment into teacher preparation programs.<sup>3359</sup> These initiatives aim to address the educator shortage by improving the qualifications and training of educators in the US.

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<sup>3356</sup> New Occupational Health Taskforce to tackle in-work sickness and drive down inactivity, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 28 February 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-occupational-health-taskforce-to-tackle-in-work-sickness-and-drive-down-inactivity>

<sup>3357</sup> Minister Halfon's speech at the Skills Matter Event, Department for Education (London) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/minister-halfons-speech-at-the-skills-matter-event>

<sup>3358</sup> Hardworking Brits backed by new employment protections, Department for Business and Trade (London) 6 April 2024. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hardworking-brits-backed-by-new-employment-protections>

<sup>3359</sup> Education, Labor Departments Announce New Efforts to Advance Teacher Preparation Programs and Expand Registered Apprenticeships for Educators, US Department of Education (Washington D.C) 27 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-labor-departments-announce-new-efforts-to-advance-teacher-preparation-programs-and-expand-registered-apprenticeships-educators>

On 28 July 2023, President Joseph Biden released an executive order on federal research and development (R&D) to support domestic manufacturing jobs in the US.<sup>3360</sup> It calls for greater investment by the federal government in R&D, education, and infrastructure pertaining to manufacturing. This demonstrates a strong effort to strengthen domestic manufacturing and create more jobs in the sector.

On 30 August 2023, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking titled “Worker Walkaround Representative Designation Process” which seeks to clarify the relevant knowledge, skills, and experience with hazardous conditions that is required of workplace inspectors.<sup>3361</sup> The revision allows employees to have greater representation during OSHA inspections which will enhance overall safety and health in the workplace.

On 6 October 2023, the US Department of Labor announced that additional funding for 12 new projects under the Mega Construction Project Program, an initiative developed in March 2023 with the objective of removing barriers to opportunity for underrepresented individuals in the construction trades and expand job growth in the sector.<sup>3362</sup>

On 1 November 2023, Head of the US Small Business Administration Isabel Guzman announced that three new Small Business Lending Company licenses have been granted.<sup>3363</sup> These licenses to lenders will focus on historically underserved markets and minority-owned enterprises. This will help remove longstanding barriers to capital for entrepreneurs and will create more jobs in these previously under-utilized sectors.

On 9 November 2023, the US Department of Labor updated its Transition Assistance Program for veteran and military spouse jobseekers.<sup>3364</sup> It will provide personalized employment assistance and offer digital matching of skills and experiences with employment networking and training services.

On 15 November 2023, the US Department of Labor announced that USD98 million in funding will be available to support pre-apprenticeships in high-demand industries, educational guidance, and employment services to disadvantaged youth.<sup>3365</sup>

On 16 November 2023, Acting Secretary of Labor Julie Su, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and US Trade Representative Katherine Tai launched the Presidential Memorandum on Advancing Worker Empowerment, Rights, and High Labor Standards Globally.<sup>3366</sup> Acting Secretary Su noted that the US Department of Labor is

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<sup>3360</sup> Executive Order on Federal Research and Development in Support of Domestic Manufacturing and United States Jobs, The White House (Washington D.C) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/07/28/executive-order-on-federal-research-and-development-in-support-of-domestic-manufacturing-and-united-states-jobs/>

<sup>3361</sup> Worker Walkaround Representative Designation Process, The Federal Register (Washington D.C) 30 August 2023. Access Date: 8 December 2023. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/08/30/2023-18695/worker-walkaround-representative-designation-process>

<sup>3362</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Scales Program to Expand Equal Opportunity, Diversity in Construction Trades for Jobs on Large Infrastructure Projects, U.S Department of Labor (Washington) 6 October 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20231006-0>

<sup>3363</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Take Steps in Expanding Access to Capital and Filling Lending Gaps in Underserved Communities, US Small Business Administration (Washington D.C) 1 November 2023. Access Date: 8 November 2023. <https://www.sba.gov/article/2023/11/01/biden-harris-administration-takes-historic-step-expanding-access-capital-filling-lending-gaps>

<sup>3364</sup> US Department of Labor Announces Updates to Transition Assistance Programs for Job-Seeking Service Members, Veterans, Military Spouses, U.S Department of Labor (Washington) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/vets/vets20231109>

<sup>3365</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$98M in Available Funding to Support Delivery of Academic, Skills Training, Employment Services for Young People, U.S Department of Labor (Washington) 15 November 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20231115>

<sup>3366</sup> Readout: Acting Secretary Su Delivers Remarks at Launch of Presidential Memorandum on Global Labor Rights, U.S Department of Labor (Washington) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20231116>

committed to combatting forced labor and improve transparency and accountability of global corporations and supply chains. She also stated that the US has developed a Multilateral Partnership for Organizing, Worker Empowerment, and Rights with the aim of strengthening independent unions and the freedom of association worldwide.

On 28 November 2023, Acting Secretary Su convened a “New Frontiers for Empowering Workers and Businesses” conference in Washington with business leaders, investors, and workers.<sup>3367</sup> The meeting focused on developing strategies to ensure business leaders and investors strengthen workers’ voices as a means to create more resilient and competitive industries across the US.

On 5 December 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration announced a significant investment in the education sector, allocating USD277 million towards Education Innovation and Research Grants.<sup>3368</sup> This fund is aimed at aiding academic recovery efforts, demonstrating the administration’s commitment to enhancing and revitalizing education in the country.

On 19 December 2023, the Biden-Harris administration advanced the American Climate Corps, a landmark initiative announced by President Biden in September 2023. This aims to train the next generation of clean energy, conservation and climate resilience workers and guarantee the workers with good-paying union jobs. It is reported that more than 40,000 people, about two-thirds of whom are ages 18-35, is interested in joining the program.<sup>3369</sup>

On 9 January 2024, the Department of Labor announced that over USD12 million was awarded in funding for three organizations to reduce child and forced labor in Mexico, and to support migrant workers.<sup>3370</sup>

On 2 February 2024, Acting Secretary Su issued a statement on the January Employment Situation Report. The statement noted that 353,000 new jobs were added in January and that the unemployment rate has remained at a steady low of 3.7 per cent.<sup>3371</sup>

On 7 February 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD85 million in available funding to increase job opportunities for youth, especially those in communities affected by violence and poverty.<sup>3372</sup>

On 8 February 2024, the Department of Labor committed USD52 million in funding for pre-release job training services for incarcerated individuals to help facilitate their transition into the workforce.<sup>3373</sup>

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<sup>3367</sup> Readout: Acting Secretary Su Convened Business Leaders, Investors, Workers for “New Frontiers for Empowering Workers and Business,” U.S Department of Labor (Washington) 30 November 2023. Access Date: 12 December 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20231130>

<sup>3368</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$277 Million In Education Innovation and Research Grants to Help Address Academic Recovery, US Department of Education (Washington D.C) 5 December 2023. Access Date:6 December 2023. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-announces-277-million-education-innovation-and-research-grants-help-address-academic-recovery>

<sup>3369</sup> US Department of Labor joins 6 federal agencies in agreement to implement American Climate Corps (Washington D.C) 19 December 2023. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20231219>

<sup>3370</sup> US Department of Labor awards more than \$12M to combat child labor, forced labor in Mexico, promote migrant workers rights, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 9 January 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20240109>

<sup>3371</sup> Statement by Acting Secretary of Labor Su on January Jobs Reports, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 2 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20240202>

<sup>3372</sup> US Department of Labor announced \$85M in available funding to improve job opportunities for youth in communities affected by violence, poverty, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 7 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240207>

<sup>3373</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$52M in pathway home grants to provide pre-release job training, services for incarcerated individuals, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240208-0>

On 14 February 2024, the Department of Labor updated the Equity Action Plan on five major focus areas: supporting workers, including those in the Southeast United States; ensuring underserved communities have access to good jobs; embedding gender equity into our partnerships and services; improving services for individuals with limited English proficiency; evaluating procurement practices to advance equity, including to support small, disadvantaged businesses such as Black- and women-owned businesses. This aims to enhance equity and economic justice in the job market.<sup>3374</sup>

On 20 February 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD20 million in funding for informational technology skills training and job services for youth.<sup>3375</sup>

On 21 February 2024, the Department of Labor committed nearly USD200 million in grants to support public-private partnerships to expand, diversify, and improve the Registered Apprenticeship program which provides training for workers and jobseekers in high-demand sectors.<sup>3376</sup>

On 28 February 2024, the Department of Labor allocated nearly USD7 million to support the International Labor Organization's research on child and forced labour.<sup>3377</sup> The project seeks to protect vulnerable workers and ensure quality jobs.

On 5 March 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD90 million in funding to provide career services and training for migrants and seasonal farmworkers as well as their dependants.<sup>3378</sup> The goal of this policy is to advance migrant and seasonal farmworkers agricultural and non-agricultural job prospects.

On 6 March 2024, the Department of Labor appointed 30 members to serve on the Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship which will advise the Secretary of Labor on how to increase equitable access to career pathways for America's workers and jobseekers.<sup>3379</sup>

On 7 March 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD312 million in funding for organizations that provide community and skills training services for older workers through the Senior Community Service Employment Program.<sup>3380</sup> This will improve employment accessibility for older adults who wish to participate in the workforce.

On 12 March 2024, the Department of Labor and the Government of the Dominican Republic met to discuss ways to promote information access about US laws protecting workplace safety, wages, and work hours to

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<sup>3374</sup> US Department of Labor releases updated Equity Action Plan, part of Biden-Harris administration commitment to advance equity, economic justice, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20240214>

<sup>3375</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$20M in available funding to deliver information technology skills, training, job services to young people, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240220>

<sup>3376</sup> Biden-Harris Administration announces nearly \$200M available in grants to expand registered apprenticeships, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240221>

<sup>3377</sup> Department of Labor allocates \$6.95M to support ILO research on child, forced labor to inform policies, protect vulnerable workers, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 28 February 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20240228>

<sup>3378</sup> US Department of Labor announces \$90M in national farmworker jobs grant to provide career services, training for farmworkers, dependents, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024

<sup>3379</sup> US Department of Labor appoints 30 leaders to service on Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship, Share Expertise, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 6 March 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240306>

<sup>3380</sup> US Department of Labor announces availability of \$312M in grants to support senior community service employment program, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 8 March 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240307-0>



citizens of the Dominican Republic who are working in the US.<sup>3381</sup> Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs Thea Lee contended that such collaborative efforts would help to ensure US labour rights are adhered to, especially in high-risk and low-wage industries.

On 2 April 2024, the Department of Labor announced that USD10.5 million will be used this year to assist youth and young adults with disabilities to develop skills and transition into the workforce.<sup>3382</sup>

On 4 April 2024, the Department of Labor announced that USD49.2 million in funding for job training services in the Appalachian, Lower Mississippi Delta and Northern Border regions.<sup>3383</sup> The grant acts upon the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities Initiative which commits to providing up to USD1.5 million in funding to workers in rural regions to help them find stable jobs in high-demand occupations.

On 10 April 2024, Senior Advisor to the US President for International Climate Policy John Podesta and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Ken Saito met for a ministerial policy dialogue on the shared goals carried out between the US Inflation Reduction Act and Japan's Green Transformation Promotion Strategy.<sup>3384</sup> During the dialogue, both parties reaffirmed their intent to collaborate on promoting clean energy by driving economic growth, emission reductions and job creation. However, no specific commitments were made to further this goal.

On 10 April 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD19 million in funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program which aims to assist low-income adult workers with employment guidance and skills training.<sup>3385</sup>

On 10 April 2024, the Department of Labor distributed USD65 million to 16 colleges in 14 states to increase access to skills training for in-demand industries.<sup>3386</sup>

On 11 April 2024, the Department of Labor awarded USD4.7 million to Partners of the Americas to promote working condition in Latin America that comply with international labor standards.<sup>3387</sup>

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<sup>3381</sup> Readout: US Department of Labor, Dominican Republic Renew Partnership to Protect Workplace Rights for its Citizens Employed in the US, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 12 March 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20240312>

<sup>3382</sup> US Department of Labor to Award up to \$67.1M to Help Youth, Young Adults with Disabilities Overcome Obstacles to Employment, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 2 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20240402>

<sup>3383</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$49.2M in Available Funding to Support Career Training, Wraparound Services to Connect Rural Workers with Good Jobs, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 4 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240404-0>

<sup>3384</sup> Minister Saito Holds a Policy Dialogue with Senior Advisor to the U.S. President Podesta, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 24 April 2024. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0411\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2024/0411_002.html)

<sup>3385</sup> US Department of Labor Announces \$19M in Grants Available to Improve Job Opportunities for Older Low-Income Adult Workers, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240410>

<sup>3386</sup> US Department of Labor Awards \$65M in Strengthening Community Colleges Grants to Expand Access to Training, Skill Development for In-Demand Industries, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240410-0>

<sup>3387</sup> US Department of Labor Awards \$4.7M Grant to Enhance Compliance with International Labor Standards in Ecuador's Banana, Cut Flow Sectors, US Department of Labor (Washington D.D) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ilab/ilab20240411>

On 11 April 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD1 million will be put towards supporting underserved and marginalized women workers who experience gender-based violence and harassment in the workplace.<sup>3388</sup> This will help create safer workspaces for women.

On 11 April 2024, the Department of Labor announced USD6 million in funding to attract and retain women in apprenticeships and industries where they are underrepresented, such as manufacturing, construction, and cybersecurity.<sup>3389</sup>

On 16 April 2024, Acting Secretary Su reaffirmed the Department of Labor's commitment to improve miners' working conditions when she spoke with the United Mine Workers District 2 in Uniontown.<sup>3390</sup> She contended that the new ruling by the Mine Safety and Health Administration will save thousands of miners' lives by reducing accidental workplace exposure to silica dust.

On 24 April 2024, the Department of Labor released an interactive map of more than 1,000 planned clean energy projects across the US to help match workers to tens of thousands of new jobs in the energy sector.<sup>3391</sup> The map allows users to filter clean energy projects by sectors and state and learn more about employment opportunities for each project.

On 25 April 2024, the Department of Labor added 16 new federally funded mega infrastructure projects which will create many new jobs across the private and public sectors.<sup>3392</sup>

On 2 May 2024, the Department of Labor announced the provision of USD98 million in grants to 72 organizations across 30 American states, as well as Guam, in order to provide training and employment services to increase access to apprenticeship positions, prepare youth for meaningful job opportunities and increase the strength of the country's workforce.<sup>3393</sup>

On 8 May 2024, the Department of Labor announced new changes to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's regional operations to help certain regions address rising worker populations and hazardous work in the fields of food processing, construction, heavy manufacturing and chemical processing.<sup>3394</sup> These new changes are intended to improve working conditions and worker safety in hazardous positions.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. It has taken strong action to encourage job growth in a variety of industries through its investment in R&D, education, and skills training, in addition to more inclusive lending options. The US has also taken steps to improve working

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<sup>3388</sup> US Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$1M in Grants to Prevent, Address Workplace Gender-Based Violence, Harassment, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20240411>

<sup>3389</sup> US Department of Labor Announces Availability of \$6M in Grants to Attract, Retain Women in Registered Apprenticeships, Non-traditional Occupations, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 11 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20240411-0>

<sup>3390</sup> Remarks by Acting Secretary Su Announcing Final Rule to Reduce Miners' Exposure to Silica Dust, Improve Health of Nation's Miners, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20240416>

<sup>3391</sup> Department of Labor Highlights more than 1,000 Planned Clean Energy Projects with Potential for Good-Paying Jobs on New Interactive Map, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 24 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20240424>

<sup>3392</sup> Department of Labor Adds 16 New Large Federally Funded Projects to Program Promoting Equal Access to Good Jobs Created by Investing in America Agenda, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C) 25 April 2024. Access Date: 1 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/ofccp/ofccp20240425>

<sup>3393</sup> DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AWARDS \$98M IN GRANTS TO SUPPORT TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT SERVICES TO YOUNG PEOPLE, INCREASE APPRENTICESHIPS IN HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 2 May 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20240502-0>

<sup>3394</sup> DEPARTMENT OF LABOR PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE WORKPLACE SAFETY, HEALTH REGIONAL OPERATIONS STRATEGICALLY TO PROTECT WORKERS, US Department of Labor (Washington D.C.) 8 May 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2024. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20240508>

conditions across the US as well as collaborate with other countries to promote compliance with international labour standards abroad.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Chiara Barsanti and Wei-Tung Ling*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation.

On 17 July 2023, the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) held a hearing on “Future-proof jobs and skills training for the digital and green transitions” to discuss reskilling and upskilling workers in order to best support green and digital transitions.<sup>3395</sup>

On 18 July 2023, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced that it would be lending over EUR600 million in loans and leases to small and medium-sized enterprises in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg.<sup>3396</sup> This agreement with the ING aims to accelerate environmental and financial sustainability.

On 12 September 2023, the EIB revealed a proposal to provide approximately EUR50 million toward financing small and mid-caps companies primarily located in the region of Castilla y León of Spain.<sup>3397</sup> The funds would mainly go towards projects focusing on supporting job creation, human capital retention and promoting regional policies on circular economy.

On 15 September 2023, the EIB revealed it had signed a EUR65 million agreement with the Atlantic Business International to support the small and medium sized enterprise market in Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Senegal.<sup>3398</sup> The funds will focus on going towards projects promoting job creation in the African region.

On 9-10 October 2023, the EU and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Oman to discuss cooperation between the two organizations on global security, climate policies, and economic relationships.<sup>3399</sup> The Joint Council emphasized scientific research and innovation as well as climate investments as contributions toward creating new jobs.

On 25 October 2023, the EIB signed an investment grant of EUR40 million dedicated to funding the “MEDUSA” Submarine Cable Project that will bolster high-speed digital connectivity between North Africa and the EU.<sup>3400</sup> By establishing high quality connectivity to universities and education and research centres in

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<sup>3395</sup> Hearing on Future-proof jobs and skills training for the digital and green transition, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 17 July 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/hearing-on-future-proof-jobs-and-skills-product-details/20230419CHE11602>

<sup>3396</sup> ING and EIB provide €600 million in new loans to small and medium-sized enterprises in the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg to boost sustainability, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 18 July 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-283-ing-and-eib-provide-eur600m-in-new-loans-to-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-in-the-netherlands-belgium-and-luxembourg-to-boost-sustainability>

<sup>3397</sup> ICE FOCUSED SUPPORT FOR SMES AND MIDCAPS II, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 12 September 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20230117>

<sup>3398</sup> Supporting the private sector: Atlantic Business International and the EIB sign €65 million agreement to support companies in sub-Saharan Africa through the Banque Atlantique network, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 15 September 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-332-soutien-au-secteur-prive-atlantic-business-international-et-la-bei-concluent-un-accord-de-65-millions-d-euros-pour-soutenir-les-entreprises-en-afrique-subsaharienne-via-le-reseau-banque-atlantique>

<sup>3399</sup> Co-Chairs’ Statement of the 27th GCC-EU Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting, European Council & Council of the European Union (Brussels) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/10/10/co-chairs-statement-of-the-27th-gcc-eu-joint-council-and-ministerial-meeting/>

<sup>3400</sup> EU and EIB’s support help accelerate the MEDUSA high-speed digital connection under the Mediterranean Sea, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 25 October 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-393-eu-eib-support-helps-accelerate-medusa-high-speed-digital-connection-under-mediterranean-sea>

North Africa Countries, the project is expected to encourage scientific knowledge exchange which will yield innovation, research and job creation in the region.

On 2 December 2023, the EIB signed the Blue Mediterranean Partnership cooperation agreement at COP28 that aims to mobilize EUR1 billion toward financing blue economy projects promoting sustainability in the Mediterranean and Red Sea regions.<sup>3401</sup> At the conference, Swedish International Development Cooperation (SIDA) Agency Director-General Jakob Granit attributed the partnership as a much-needed one that “protects marine resources and creates much-needed jobs.”

On 2 December 2023, the EIB announced at COB28 that it would enter into a partnership with Mission Innovation in order to accelerate the development of clean energy technologies.<sup>3402</sup> EIB Vice-President Ambroise Fayolle expressed the significance of the partnership for contributing toward a net-zero future from advancing technologies, commenting that “Financing the technologies of tomorrow is key to reaching global climate goals, supporting economies’ competitiveness and creating new jobs.”

On 9 January 2024, the EIB revealed it had signed the SG Equipment Finance Benelux L4SMEs & Midcaps II project that aims to promote economic growth through job creation and green private sector development in Benelux, a geographic region comprised of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.<sup>3403</sup> The EIB plans to invest approximately EUR120 million to eligible small and medium sized enterprises.

On 2 February 2024, the European Labour Authority published its Capacity Building Strategy for 2024-2030 which will assist Member States to apply and enforce EU labour mobility laws.<sup>3404</sup> The standardization is intended to improve job quality in line with EU law across national borders.

On 19 February 2024, the EIB announced its intention to finance EUR100 million to the Enel Italia Climate Action FL II project, which aims to support renewable energy projects in Italy.<sup>3405</sup> The project is anticipated to have a positive impact as it will promote new jobs in the renewable energy sector in Italy.

On 7 March 2024, the EIB, the Development Bank of Austria and the Belgian Investment Company for Developing Countries confirmed a joint USD40 million contributions toward TowerCo of Africa Uganda.<sup>3406</sup> The investment will help install 506 new telecom towers in rural Uganda, which is expected to create 2,000 skilled and unskilled jobs for local communities during construction.

On 11 March 2024, the EIB revealed it signed an agreement with Banca Ifis to provide EUR300 million to support investments by small and medium businesses and mid-caps in Italy.<sup>3407</sup>

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<sup>3401</sup> Blue Mediterranean Partnership steps up support for sustainable blue economy, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-489-blue-mediterranean-partnership-steps-up-support-for-sustainable-blue-economy>

<sup>3402</sup> EIB Group and Mission Innovation team up to accelerate clean energy innovation, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-486-eib-group-and-mission-innovation-team-up-to-accelerate-clean-energy-innovation>

<sup>3403</sup> SG EQUIPMENT FINANCE BENELUX L4SMES & MIDCAPS II, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 9 January 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20220919>

<sup>3404</sup> ELA adopts strategy to assist Member States with capacity building in 2024-2023, European Labour Authority (Slovakia) 2 February 2024. Access Date: 7 March 2024. <https://www.ela.europa.eu/en/news/ela-adopts-strategy-assist-member-states-capacity-building-2024-2030>

<sup>3405</sup> ENEL ITALIA CLIMATE ACTION FL II, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 19 February 2024. Access Date: 2 March 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20230749>

<sup>3406</sup> Uganda: US\$40 million European backing for Uganda rural telecom expansion, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-097-usd40-million-european-backing-for-uganda-rural-telecom-expansion>

<sup>3407</sup> Italy: EIB and Banca Ifis provide €300 million in support of innovative investments by small businesses and mid-caps, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 11 March 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-103-eib-and-banca-ifis-provide-eur300-million-in-support-of-innovative-investments-by-small-businesses-and-mid-caps>

On 23 April 2024, the EIB released its approval for the Quona Global Gateway Fund IV, which aims to mobilise EUR329 million to small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa.<sup>3408</sup> The project will promote equity while generating financial return, which includes creating new jobs and supporting female entrepreneurs and consumers.

On 6 May 2024, the EIB provided EUR10 million in loans to Bank Respublika in order to support small businesses in Azerbaijan to promote financial inclusion and help these businesses improve employment.<sup>3409</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work toward quality job creation. Not only has the European Union been vocal in its support for job creation, specifically as a motivator for increased sustainability, but the EU has also showcased its commitment toward job creation through its investment projects particularly funded through the European Investment Bank. The EU has acted to provide skills training and help small- and medium-sized enterprises in order to bring about greater employment opportunities.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mia Xie*

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<sup>3408</sup> QUONA GLOBAL GATEWAY FUND IV, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 23 April 2024. Access Date: 26 April 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20240020>

<sup>3409</sup> Azerbaijan: EIB Global and Bank Respublika sign €10 million loan agreement to boost finance access for small businesses, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 6 May 2024. Access Date: 12 May 2024. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2024-171-azerbaijan-eib-global-and-banak-respublika-sign-10-million-loan-agreement-to-boost-finance-access-for-small-businesses>