

Meeting with Bolt

7 September 2021

Participants

- [redacted] (Bolt's [redacted])
- Filomena Chirico, Ioan Canton; Cabinet Breton

Summary

Bolt expressed their concerns and expectations regarding the preparation of the platforms workers initiative. Bolt explained that the company provides flexibility and independence to its drivers, including that no exclusivity is required. They also described the increase in the scope of their activities, such as food delivery. All in all, Bolt is presented as a European alternative to large American and Asian ones.

Regarding the employment status, Bolt argued that focusing essentially on this question would destabilise platforms such as Bolt, weakening workers themselves and taking opportunities away from them. Bolt explained that in their views, [redacted]

[redacted] Bolt also noted that the consultations on the preparation of the platform workers initiative are mostly happening between traditional employers and trade unions. Platforms are not part of the social partners. Bolt expressed their concerns regarding the rebuttable presumption option, arguing that it presents huge legal and financial risks. [redacted]

[redacted] Finally, Bolt informed the Commission that the delivery sector is working on a code of practice/conducts.

Cabinet Breton recalled the main objectives of the initiative and explained the three main issues under discussion: Employment status – cross border aspects – algorithmic management. Cabinet Breton explained that the Commission is finalising the evidence base and analysis as part of the preparation of the impact assessment and invited Bolt to share input and evidence on these issues to feed into this work.