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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities DG

The Director-General

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**Subject: High Level Meeting between the International Labour Office and the European Commission, 2 February 2010**

Dear Ms Ducci,

I am pleased to send you the joint conclusions (including annexes) of the high-level meeting which took place on 2 February 2010 in Brussels. We propose that these conclusions be considered as the final version, following close cooperation between our respective services.

In accordance with established practice, I will share these conclusions with my colleagues in other Directorate-Generals of the Commission and arrange for their transmission to all EU Delegations. I would be grateful if the conclusions could also be circulated within the ILO headquarters' and field offices.

I take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent cooperation and look forward to continuing our fruitful cooperation.

  
Robert Verrue

2/07/2010

## **Joint Conclusions of the 8th High Level Meeting between the International Labour Office and the European Commission**

**Brussels, 2 February 2010**

### **Summary:**

The High Level Meeting ("the Meeting" hereafter) was the 8<sup>th</sup> since the renewal of the Exchange of Letters in 2001. It included also the exchange between ILO and Commission in the framework of the strategic partnership in the field of development cooperation, signed in 2004.

Participant lists and the jointly agreed agenda are part of the annexes of the present conclusions.

The meeting did not address all issues of ongoing cooperation but focused on areas of strategic importance. The agenda was therefore strongly marked by the two organizations' ongoing policy priority to cope with the crisis and its severe impact on people.

The parties agreed that crisis responses of the ILO and the European Union, but also the important momentum arisen in 2009 at the multilateral level and providing an unprecedented impetus for social and employment concerns, provided a further impetus to their cooperation. In this regard, the upcoming meetings in the G20 process are of outstanding significance for both organizations, and close information and coordination of positions is of utmost importance.

The parties considered that, at all levels, whether regional or global, the primary challenge remains to achieve a balance between macro-economic stability and the social and jobs dimension.

In that regard, the adoption of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation (2008) and the Global Jobs Pact (2009) by the International Labour Conference and the mandates for monitoring and assessing crisis measures and developing a global training strategy together with other relevant organizations given to the ILO for the work within the G20 framework were considered as particularly important.

The beginning of the office of a new European Commission in February 2010, the changes brought by the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, including for the external action of the European Union, and finally the new strategic framework "Europe 2020" with a strong jobs and social dimension were highlighted as the most decisive developments at the Union which will also impact the cooperation between EC and ILO.

The strategic partnership in the area of development has been further strengthened. For the future, a strong focus will be laid upon the themes of social protection, social dialogue, international labour standards and the continued efforts of mainstreaming employment and decent work.

The meeting looked into the cooperation on trade and labour issues, considered as extremely fruitful.

Another focal point of discussion was the need to further improve the existing cooperation on technical assistance at the country level, including through achieving smooth, practical working modalities allowing for facilitating and speeding up the implementation of agreed action in the field.

Both sides agreed to carry on focussing future High Level Meetings on issues of strategic importance. In the following, the agenda items will be presented in more details as to the main elements of debate and conclusions on cooperation.

## **Employment and Decent Work**

### **Crisis and recovery – and the pivotal role of skills**

#### *Crisis analysis and assessment of responses:*

Both sides agreed that all efforts should be deployed to ensure that the first Employment Ministers meeting of the G20 (20/21 April 2010) in Washington will send strong messages to the G20 on the strengthening of a G20 framework for strong, balanced and sustainable growth.

The ILO highlighted the two main policy issues guiding its action in the G20 process, which are (1) the need to reduce the forecasted lag between economy recovery and employment recovery; and (2) the development of an employment oriented framework for growth, through a genuine integration of employment policies in the macroeconomic policies. A strong role for labour ministers and for social partners' organisations and a strong impetus for social protection and social dialogue were also aimed at by the ILO.

The assessment of the employment and social situation in the light of the measures taken by countries will be an important foundation for the debate of G20. The parties debriefed each other on their respective activities including their cooperation with the OECD:

The ILO will complement its analysis provided to the Pittsburgh G20 Summit and provide country briefs and an EU brief. The EU brief will cover two main measures: the New Skills for New Jobs initiative and the European Globalization Adjustment Fund. The documents prepared by the ILO will also present analysis on the relation and trade-off between fiscal and employment policies and the relationship of economic growth and employment, notably with a view to the quality of job dimension.

The Commission informed about its cooperation with the OECD on a questionnaire on crisis measures, including a review of Public Employment Services' action that will also feed into the G20 debates.

The parties therefore agreed on close exchange of information in the framework of their respective analytical work.

The implementation of a joint management project, signed in autumn 2009, which will allow analytical work on employment issues in the context of the crisis, will be an important asset for this cooperation and both sides committed to actively foster this work.

#### *Skills development:*

The parties took the common view that the item of skills and knowledge development - which is highlighted by G20, but also forming part of the general core policies agenda of ILO and the European Commission - remains a strategic policy area, for coping not only with the crisis and achieving long term recovery but also for meeting longer term challenges such as demographic change. It should remain a focus of continued research cooperation between ILO and Commission.

The ILO presented its work plan related to the elaboration of a training strategy under the mandate given to it and other relevant organization by the Pittsburgh Summit. While there will be a number of preparatory actions in the run up to the Labour Ministerial among which technical and sectoral consultations in Turin in Geneva in March, it is envisaged that, in view of the mandate given by the G20 leaders, the topic will be part of the Summit discussion in Toronto and Korea later in 2010.

The Commission – and other EU agencies with a mandate in this field - will participate to a number of the preparatory meetings.

There was consensus that the EU's New Skills for New Jobs Strategy can provide valuable complementary input to the global training strategy. Continuation of close cooperation in this area, including through intensive efforts in the framework of a joint management project on skills in economies shifting to low carbon, was agreed.

Regarding upcoming events, the ILO was invited to cooperate on the European Skills, Competences and Occupations (ESCO) project providing a multilingual European dictionary linking skills and competences with occupations. A contribution from the perspective of skills and occupations involving the ILO expertise on ISCO would be highly welcome.

### **Social and employment implications of a shift to low carbon economies**

Both sides underlined the importance of this topic for their respective policy agendas.

The ILO, which is also a part of the UNEP-IOE-ITUC Green jobs project, presented an overview of its current work, which can be divided in a technical cooperation strand and an analytical strand, looking at net employment and distribution effects. Measurement is considered as a particular challenge.

The parties committed to continuing their close cooperation, agreed at the High Level Meeting in 2008, notably in the framework of the projects with the ILO and the International Labour Institute that will provide more analysis and also look into skills issues.

### **Flexicurity**

The meeting was used as an occasion to address flexicurity and to explore possibilities for cooperation. The Commission highlighted the relevance of the concept, as shown also in the crisis, and the consensus on common principles at the level of the EU, and informed that update work would be done at the European level. It underlined the role of social protection for the credibility of the concept. The parties, including the representatives of the workers' and employers' Bureaus at the ILO, discussed the perception at the international level, where no general consensus existed.

The parties agreed that a simple transposition of the European debate to the global level would be inappropriate, and that any cooperation should refer to the building blocks of "combing flexibility and security" and their interaction. The Commission underlined its readiness for explaining the concept as understood and practiced, in many forms adapted to the national context, in the European Union.

### **Promotion of the Decent Work Agenda**

While highlighting the continued support to the Decent Work Agenda by the European Commission the parties agreed that the upcoming proposal for a European growth strategy "Europe 2020" would be an important document for fostering employment and decent work policies. Regarding ongoing cooperation, the support given to the ILO Decent Work toolkit as an instrument to foster the uptake of decent work in the field and by different UN-organizations in a coherent and therefore efficient manner was discussed. The ILO suggested a continuation of cooperation on the toolkit in the future with a view to promoting decent work at the national level in operational terms.

The Commission and the ILO will discuss further how the toolkit could also be used by the EU Delegations.

## **Gender Equality**

Both parties exchanged information about their activities for policy development. The ILO informed about the follow up given to the conclusions that resulted from the debate at the 2009 International Labour Conference on "Gender Equality at the heart of decent work" that will also be taken up in the ILO's Action Plan for Gender 2010-2015, an outline of which is presented to the ILO Governing Body in March 2010. The Commission presented the state of preparation of its future framework on gender equality for the next 5 years, following the current Roadmap 2006-2010 for Equality between Women and Men.

The Commission also presented information on new developments on EU legislation on maternity leave, equal treatment for self-employed women and assisting spouses, and on parental leave (revision of the 1996 EU directive on the basis of a framework agreement between the European social partners).

The Commission underlined the successful implementation with ITC-ILO under a contract addressing the combating of gender stereotypes in small and medium size enterprises. The ILO ITC underlined the need to ensure continuity in addressing the topic.

The Commission shared its activities in the domain of external action and notably the upcoming Gender Action Plan, an operational proposal of the Commission that will be followed by Council Conclusions in spring 2010 and thus binding for the EU as a whole. In exchange, ILO shared with the EC its recent gender action plan. The Commission very much valued the cooperation with the ITC-ILO on mainstreaming gender, in particular under the EC/UN partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace.

As regards cooperation with third countries the highly successful cooperation through a project in Ukraine was mentioned.

The parties will continue the exchange of information and the technical cooperation activities in external relations.

## **Employment of persons with disabilities**

The parties noted that there was ample convergence between the ILO and EU approaches, for action inside and outside the European Union.

The Commission informed about the preparation of the Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which should be adopted mid-2010 taking account of the enlarged Union, the stronger involvement of NGOs and notably the impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities. The latter will also entail a strong focus on work on statistics.

For the external dimension, the Commission informed about its twofold approach, consisting of, on the one hand, specific actions and, on the other hand, the endeavour of increasingly mainstreaming disability to comply with the UN Convention. To this end, a network of contact persons in the EU delegations and a study were launched. The ILO will be invited to the related workshop.

The ILO informed about the instruments and their training material, including a code of practice. It was suggested that the organizations share their expertise.

## **Social Dialogue and Industrial Relations**

The Commission informed about the Social Partners joint analysis on the crisis, which showed deep divergences, but also some shared views such as inter alia the role of short time working arrangements. The next Industrial Relation report will also look into the crisis, and climate change, and the Commission looks forward to input from ILO's representative to the steering group.

The Social Partners are also preparing some joint work on posting of workers issues.

Other issues presented related to the planned elaboration of a social partners agreement – to be launched in June 2010 - transposing parts of the ILO Work in Fishing Convention (no 188), the ongoing debates regarding the interpretation of wages in Fishing Agreements, providing a link with ILO rules on seafarers, with third countries, and the further coverage of workers by sectoral social dialogue at the EU level, which extends now to 38 sectors (most recently the metal sector), and covers more than 100 million workers in Europe.

Both sides appreciated the continuity of substantial cooperation between Commission and the ILO and ILO ITC and expressed their wish for continuation, both on a sectoral and a cross-industry level with a strong focus on capacity building of social partners.

The ILO underlined that the tradition of involvement of social partners under the G8 process needed to be continued in the G20 process. Important work on CSR is undertaken (Better Work Project in cooperation with the International Finance Corporation) under the auspices of the promotion of the ILO Multinational Enterprises Declaration.

In relation to the external dimension, the Commission underlined its intention to step up further its efforts of support for social dialogue in its sector policy dialogues (in relation to development and external assistance). It informed that all sector reforms with partner countries should be accompanied by social dialogue and that capacity building for governments and social partners would be necessary and requires cooperation with the ILO – ILO-ITC including at country level. Capacity building was also considered important in the light of the impact of the crisis on social partners.

The parties agreed that closer cooperation on social partners' roles and social dialogue, also with a view to strengthening capacities for the effective implementation of labour laws and for the activities of workers and employers organisations, should be a central element of cooperation.

## **Restructuring and structural transitions**

The Commission presented its activities on anticipation and management of change, such as the organization of restructuring fora, the elaboration of a restructuring checklist, and welcomed the activities of the ILO in this area. It underlined the good cooperation with the ITC in the framework of a contract on a series on national seminars. It expressed the expectation that the knowledge sharing on restructuring will continue in the future as the Commission intends to further support projects aiming at promoting good practice and greater knowledge.

## **The European Globalization Adjustment Fund (EGF)**

The parties referred to the visit of the EGF team to the ILO in Geneva, motivated through the newly created possibility to establish a knowledge base relevant to the implementation of the EGF that resulted from a modification of the EGF's legal rules. This allowed the EGF team to draw on the expertise of the ILO. The Commission expressed its gratitude for the ILO offer to provide assistance.

In return, the Commission would be ready to share EGF case related information and data with ILO researchers.

The parties agreed that contacts and cooperation should be continued on an ad-hoc basis.

### **Migration**

The European Commission shortly presented the new policy framework on migration under the Stockholm Programme that was adopted by the European Council in December 2010, under which the development of a forward-looking and comprehensive European migration policy, based on solidarity and responsibility, will remain a key policy objective, enabling migrants to take full advantage of their potential.

The ILO expressed its satisfaction that ILO and the Stockholm programme follow a similar multidisciplinary approach addressing the integration of migrants, the management of migration, and migrants' rights involved. It pointed at the expertise developed at the ILO in these areas through the ILO Multilateral Framework on Migration.

Regarding the external dimension, the Commission underlined the key feature of engagement with social partners, the need to address the issue through interregional country exchanges, and the need to address fundamental rights to prevent discrimination of migrants.

The respective EU and ILO frameworks and approaches offer perspectives for further developing cooperation on labour migration.

### **Labour Law**

The Commission informed about recent developments. Regarding Temporary Agency workers the period for transition by EU Member States of the directive (2008/104/EC) will expire at the end of 2011, and an expert group, involving the social partners, has been set up to discuss particular issues under this legal instrument. The Commission is therefore very interested in the discussions at the ILO on the Convention on private employment agencies, no 181.

The consequences of the decisions of the European Court of Justice on the posting of workers directive and on the compatibility between economic freedoms and fundamental social rights remain an important topic and analytical work is ongoing. A contribution from the European social partners is expected soon. The Commission would like to look into the matter also under an international perspective. The parties therefore agree that an expert seminar should be organized between the various Commission services involved and the International Labour Office.

The discussions on the revision of the working time directive, also with a view to adapt the legislation to decisions rendered by the European Court of Justice, are ongoing and a first consultation of the European social partners is envisaged soon. The Commission will draw on the abundant ILO expertise in the field, notably for the elaboration of the impact assessment that will precede any legislative initiative.

The parties convene that strengthening labour administration remains an important topic for cooperation. In that regard the Commission informed about its activities on undeclared work. The presentation of the results of a study that examines the feasibility of a European platform of cooperation between labour inspectorates to combat and prevent undeclared work, and its follow-up will provide an opportunity for further cooperation. Strengthening labour inspection will also be needed for the conversion of precarious employment in work with rights.



Capacity building for the enforcement of labour rights was also considered as an important issue for activities in partner countries with both labour administrations and social partners.

The parties confirmed the good level of cooperation in the area of transnational company agreements and international framework agreements. They underlined their common interest in further addressing these initiatives of growing importance as they provide concrete innovation in ways to address the social dimension of globalization.

### **Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy**

The parties underlined that intensive cooperation has taken place over the last year and the EC is grateful to the ILO's availability for sharing information to assist the assessment of countries' situation. This was also reflected in the most recent meeting between the Commission and the ILO Sub-Regional Office in Budapest.

The Commission's and the ILO's cooperation on social dialogue issues in Turkey was mentioned, consisting in exchange of information, notably on trade union rights in Turkey. The Commission expressed its gratitude for ILO's involvement in a TAIEX seminar on civil service trade union's rights and its particular interest on information of the outcome of the bipartite High Level Mission of the ILO to Turkey, planned for March 2010.

The parties convened to continuing the good cooperation which is of particular importance for the monitoring of the benchmarks for opening the chapter for employment and social policies in the accession negotiations with Turkey.

Regarding Neighbourhood Policy, existing cooperation on the Union for the Mediterranean in the area of decent work, based on a joint management project on decent work, is considered by the parties as a good practice of how ILO-EC cooperation can be used for supporting decent work policy dialogue in this region.

### **Social Protection**

The particular relevance of the issue in times of crisis was underlined by both sides, and the joint promotion was considered as very successful in 2009, notably through the uptake of the building of a social protection floor in development cooperation.

The ILO and the ILO/ITC were invited to contribute to the European Development Report 2010, which will be dedicated to poverty, inequality and social protection with a geographical focus on Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Commission and the ILO also envisage cooperation on the European Year 2010 on combating poverty and social exclusion, and strive for the inclusion of strong messages on social protection by the G20.

### **Trade, labour standards and decent work**

Both sides underlined the good quality and the benefit of their ongoing cooperation and the importance of the interplay between trade and labour issues for the promotion of the decent work agenda.

The ILO welcomed the recent Commission Staff Working Paper on Child Labour and its broad approach to the problem. ILO will share its comments on the document with the Commission. Also regarding child labour, the parties agreed to discuss the issue of child labour in Uzbekistan on which a concept paper has been prepared by the ILO and submitted to the Commission for consideration.

Regarding Free Trade Agreements, the ILO welcomed the commitment of Korea to work towards ratification of core labour standards on freedom of association and collective bargaining in the (initialled) agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Korea. It was agreed that further cooperation towards this aim should be explored between the Commission and the ILO.

The Commission reiterated its appreciation of the continued joint research of ILO and the WTO on trade and labour matters. The ILO informed that future research could be envisaged on the subject of trade adjustments or of the effect of labour provisions in regional trade agreements.

The Commission shared information on GSP plus with the ILO.

The need for coherence between trade policies and trade related external assistance at country level was underlined.

### **Development and external action**

The Commission presented the EU responses on supporting developing countries in coping with the crisis that showed the strong commitment to expand social protection and to promote employment enhancing activities including the establishment of the ad-hoc Vulnerability Flex mechanism.

These are also among the aims pursued by the Commission through the revision of the 10<sup>th</sup> EDF country strategies, and the ongoing mid-term review of the thematic programme "Investing in people", for which employment, employability and social inclusion will remain central elements.

Overall, the area of social protection was presented by the Commission as particularly important. The ILO was invited to bring in its expertise and experience, notably for the preparation of the 2010 Edition of the European Development Report.

Information on a package of initiatives in the framework of the preparation of the forthcoming UN MDG review in September 2010 was also shared with the ILO.

The Commission is committed to further stepping up the mainstreaming of employment and decent work in development cooperation. The aim to develop operational guidance for AIDCO headquarters and EU Delegation remains of paramount importance. Both sides agree that important joint activities are already underway, and that a further operationalization of the decent work agenda should be the aim. Social dialogue will be a central feature.

The meeting was used to look into the Joint Regional Seminars that have been organized with the ILO since 2006. The next meeting will cover the ENP region, so that all regions in the world would have been covered. Both sides agreed that the time has come to draw lessons and conclusions of seminars held. In this regard, the Commission proposed considering the preparation of follow-up reports by both sides, followed by a joint analysis of the events and the options for future events.

A technical meeting discussing major joint issues with the aim to strengthen and update the strategic partnership was agreed upon.

This meeting could also be used to discuss ways to render negotiations and implementation of jointly financed activities more efficient.

## **Human Rights**

The meeting allowed for an exchange on labour standards under a human rights perspective. Good cooperation is developing to allow the use of ILO input and monitoring mechanisms into the EU Human Rights policy towards third countries, for example in the Commission's the human rights dialogues or in the GSP + trade preferences. The increased attention the EU is paying to economic and social rights paves the road for more interaction with ILO mechanisms.

# European Commission/ILO Office High Level Meeting 02 February 2010

## Summary overview of the implementation of joint programmes and initiatives since the 2008 HLM

Draft 27/11/09

### 1. Responding to the financial, economic and social crisis and shifting to a low carbon economy

- The European Commission (EC) and the ILO signed in December 2009 a Contribution Agreement for a Joint Management Project under the EU programme PROGRESS entitled "Addressing European labour market social challenges for a sustainable globalization" covering analysis of and responses to the crisis, greening the economy and related skills and involving the International Institute for Labour Studies of the ILO and the ILO Employment sector.
- EC participated in the ILO GB (March and November 2009) and June 2009 ILC debates on responding to the crisis and the Global Jobs Pact. The European Commissioner V. Špidla participated in the June 2009 ILO Global Jobs Summit.
- ILO and EC have held a number of informal exchanges and consultations on the analysis and assessment of the crisis and responses to the crisis (e.g. ILO DG Somavia and EC President Barroso in March 2009, on the ILO assessment of crisis responses as requested by the G20 Summit). ILO was invited by EC to contribute to expert group (CEPS) meeting on future of European employment strategy.
- ILO-ICT organised an EC co-funded conference in November 2009 on addressing the financial, economic and social crisis and role of social dialogue.
- ILO/ITC implements an EC tender on restructuring seminars in 27 EU Member states (the tender was launched before the crisis).
- Representatives of DG EMPL visited the International Labour Office in November 2009 for an exchange aimed at facilitating the construction of a knowledge base of the European Globalization Adjustment Fund.

### 2. Employment

#### 2.1. Skills both inside and outside EU

- The EC and the ILO signed in December 2009 a Contribution Agreement under the programme PROGRESS to implement a technical cooperation project aimed first at elaborating a comparative analysis of methods of identification of skill needs on the labour market in transition to the low carbon economy and second, to do a study of occupational and skill needs in two green sectors: renewable energy and green building.
- Skills need is also part of the ILO green jobs programme launched in 2009.
- ILO was represented at the EU expert group on new skills for new jobs.
- Negotiations are ongoing with the EU Delegation in Pakistan in relation to a large skills programme.

## 2.2. Flexicurity

- Flexicurity was one of the themes discussed at the ILO European Regional Meeting in Lisbon, February 2009
- ILO November 2009 GB (ESP committee) discussed an ILO Office document on "Combining flexibility and security for decent work" at the November 2009 GB ESP Committee session. EC intervened in the debate.

## 3. Broadening social protection coverage including workers in the informal economy

- EC/EU contributed to ILO tripartite meeting of experts on strategies for the extension of social security coverage (2-4/09/09).
- ILO participated in the EU conference on the importance of social protection for responding to the economic crisis: a dialogue with emerging economies, 9 December 2009.
- ILO gave a presentation at the EU Social Protection Committee on the social protection floor.
- ILO contributed to an EC organised expert meeting on a draft study on promoting social protection in selected MEDA countries.
- The EC and the ILO signed in October 2009 a Contribution Agreement under the thematic programme "Investing in People" aimed at improving social security and promoting employment in four pilot countries.
- The EC communication of 8 April 2009 and the Council conclusions on assisting developing countries in responding to the crisis highlighted the importance of social protection.
- Negotiations are ongoing regarding a programme on introducing a social protection system in Syria (see under point 7).

## 4. Promoting social dialogue in EU and in EU external relations and actions

- ILO participated in several technical meetings organised by EC on international frameworks agreements and transnational agreements. A representative of the European Commission attended ILO events on this topic. EC decided to co-fund a project of ITC mandated by European employers' organisations in this area.
- ILO SECTOR department presented the ILO work in fishing sector convention N° 188 to the EU sector social dialogue committee for the fishing sector at request of EU social partners
- EC co-funded selected initiatives by ITC, in cooperation with ACTRAV and ACTEMP, on strengthening sector social partners capacity and connecting with EU sector social dialogue in EU candidate countries and new EU Member states.
- EC and ITC/ILO cooperated on an ITC conference on social dialogue and the response to the crisis in Europe. The event was co-funded by the EC.
- Promoting social dialogue was part of the June 2009 EC-ILO seminar for EC and EU Members states delegations in ACP countries.

## 5. Gender equality

- EC contributed to the June 2009 ILC general discussion on gender equality at the heart of decent work and intervened also at the presentation of the tripartite conclusions at the plenary sessions of the June ILC.
- Regular informal consultations on promoting gender equality took place.
- ITC/ILO finalised the projects (following a tender) on “raising awareness of companies about combating gender stereotypes” (national reports and seminars and final EU wide conference).
- Implementation of EC-ILO joint management programme on gender equality in the world of work in Ukraine.

## 6. Labour Law<sup>1</sup>

- Participation of the EC at ILO Workshop on the promotion of ratification of the Private Employment Agencies Convention (No 181), 1997, October 2009
- Participation of the EC at the ILO Workshop on strengthening cooperation between labour inspectorates in fighting undeclared work, October 2009

## 7. Enlargement<sup>2</sup>

- ILO contributed to the June 2009 EC-international organisations consultation on the 2009 EU enlargement package.
- ILO contributed to seminars organised by DG ELARG.
- Ongoing exchange of information on the employment, rights at work, social dialogue and social protection in the Western Balkans (regional and country level) and Turkey (e.g. cooperation on trade union rights).
- EC-ILO Budapest consultation on 27/1/2010

## 8. Development and external action (including ENP)

- EC-ILO seminar in June 2009 on employment and decent work for EC and EU Members states delegations in ACP countries.
- European Commission Špidla participated at an Informal Ministerial Meeting organized by ILO/EUROPE in the margins of the ILO's International Labour Conference in June 2009 on labour mobility (including Morocco, Ukraine and candidate country Turkey)
- ILO contributed to the EC consultation in September 2009 on the 2009 European Development Report.
- Ongoing negotiations on the possible conclusion of a joint management agreement on introducing a social protection system in Syria and on a possible conclusion of a joint programme on skills in Pakistan ((see also under points 2.1 and 3)).
- EC and ILO signed in October 2009 two joint management agreements under the thematic programme “Investing in people”: (i) on social protection and employment; and (ii) on health and safety at the work place.

<sup>1</sup> Labour Law was not specifically addressed in the Conclusions but is an ongoing concern under the promotion of the Decent Work Agenda.

<sup>2</sup> Enlargement was not covered by a specific chapter in the joint conclusions of the 2008 HLM but is implicitly included in other chapters. However a number of specific initiatives have taken place following the implementation of the 2007 HLM.

- A joint management under investing in people signed in 2008, on "Enhancing the understanding of decent work issues by developing decent work indicators" is under implementation. The joint steering committee took place in Brussels in July 2009.
- ILO/ITC was selected to implement a project with the Investing in People thematic programme under the 2009 call for proposals "Improving labour market information systems"
- EC and the ILO are implementing a joint programme under PROGRESS on "Expanding the knowledge base on decent work in Mediterranean countries". ILO presented the draft studies on 26 and 27 November 2009 at the "Union for the Mediterranean-Euromed Employment & Labour High Level Working Group".
- ILO provided information to the EC for the EU 2009 ENP progress and the future EU 2010 ENP reports, in particular in relation to the financial, economic and social crisis.
- ILO also provided information on decent work situation in several ENP countries for several EU-ENP meetings.
- EC-ILO cooperation on a number of specific programmes and projects in various ENP countries (such as gender in Ukraine, trafficking in Moldova).

## 9. Trade, labour standards and decent work

- Regular informal exchanges of information on relevant countries under GSP and GSP plus while taking into account the respective mandates of ILO and EC.
- Exchange of information on child labour.
- A joint management project under Investing in People, signed in 2008, is under implementation on analysing and addressing effects of trade on employment. The meeting of the joint steering committee took place in Brussels in July 2009. A joint EC/ILO experts meeting was held in Geneva 14-15 December 2009 over the study on effects of trade on employment.

## 10. Migration<sup>3</sup>

- The ILO is taking part in an inter-agency Migration and Development Joint initiative. This three year programme is financed by EuropeAid and is being implemented jointly by UNDP (lead agency) UNHCR, UNFPA, ILO and IOM.
- The ILO presented a number of technical cooperation programmes under the call for proposals on cooperation with third countries in the areas migration and asylum.
- The ILO is implementing several EU-supported technical cooperation and capacity building programmes on migration in third countries, in Asia, Russian Federation, Caucasus and Central Asia
- ILO specialists contributed inputs to EU Presidency conferences, Commission consultations, and EESC hearings on migration and integration policy issues.

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<sup>3</sup> Migration was not covered by a specific chapter in the joint conclusions of the 2008 HLM but is implicitly included in other chapters and a number of initiatives have taken place following the implementation of the 2007 and 2006 HLM.

PARDEV MONITORING MATRIX  
ILO Extra-budgetary Technical Cooperation Projects financed by the European Commission

Donor Name	Title	Admin Unit	ILO XB Symbol	Starting date	End date	Months	APPROVED/EEC Contribution €
EC/DG AIDCO	Tackling Child Labour Through Education (TACKLE)	IPEC	INT/05/24/EEC	01/03/08	29/02/12	48	€ 14.750.000
	Assessing and Addressing the Effects of Trade on Employment	EMPMSU	INT/07/14/EEC	01/02/09	31/01/13	48	€ 3.227.710
	Monitoring and Assessing Progress on Decent Work in Developing Countries	INTEGRATION	INT/07/15/EEC	01/02/09	31/01/13	48	€ 3.989.997
	Promotion of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples	NORMES	INT/08/15/EEC	15/09/08	14/09/10	24	€ 830.000
	Going back - Moving on: Economic and Social Empowerment of Migrants Including Victims of Trafficking Returned from the EU countries	RO BANGKOK	RAS/08/03/EEC	01/02/09	31/01/12	36	€ 1.758.813
	Strengthening of Comprehensive anti-trafficking responses in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia	SRO MOSCOW	RER/08/02/EEC	01/05/09	30/04/11	24	€ 1.903.946
	Increasing Protection of Migrant Workers in the Russian Federation and Enhancing Development Impact of Migration in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia	SRO MOSCOW	RER/08/05/EEC	13/12/08	12/06/11	30	€ 1.910.497
	Enhancing the cooperation to fight trafficking in human beings from Nigeria to Europe	DECLAR	INT/08/07/EEC	01/09/09	28/08/11	24	€ 1.010.908
	Improving social protection and promoting employment	SEC/SOC EMP/POL	INT/09/06/EEC	01/11/09	31/10/12	36	€ 2.500.000
	Improving safety and health at work through a decent work agenda	SAFework	INT/09/08/EEC	01/12/09	30/11/12	36	€ 1.500.000
	Prevention and rehabilitation measures addressing children associated with armed forces and groups or involved in worst forms of child labour in conflict or post-conflict	ITC-TURIN IPEC		01/03/08	28/02/10	24	€ 1.100.000





PARDEV MONITORING MATRIX

	EMP/SKILLS	GLO/09/07/EEC	10/1/02/10	30/07/11	18	€ 499.998
Knowledge sharing in early identification of skill needs	TRAVAIL	RER/09/02/EEC	01/11/209	30/04/11	18	€ 316.570,75
Inequalities in the world of work: The effects of the crisis	ITC-TURIN		04/05/09	31/03/10	11	€ 273.042,00
Negotiating the crisis: forum on social dialogue and industrial relations in the midst of the economic crisis in Europe	ITC-TURIN		14/12/09	12/12/10	12	€ 239.967,60
Sectoral social dialogue in new member states and candidates countries achievements and challenges in postal services, telecommunications, construction, tourism, metal industry, energy and chemistry	ITC-TURIN		01/12/09	30/12/10	13	€ 159.110,00
Building the capacity of actors represented at company level to engage in and implement transnational company agreements	ITC-TURIN		01/12/09	31/05/11	18	€ 256.536,20
Strengthening the capacity of employers' organisation of the agency work industry for participating in sectoral policy development and social dialogue	ITC-TURIN		15/12/08	14/03/10	15	€ 280.020,00
Strengthening the capacity of EMCEF affiliates for participation in sectoral social dialogue at national and European level	ITC-TURIN		01/12/08	31/05/10	18	€ 230.443,00
Strengthening the capacity of ECEG affiliates for participation in sectoral social dialogue at national and European level	ITC-TURIN		01/01/08	31/12/09	24	€ 1.070.586,00
Raising the awareness of companies about combating gender stereotypes	ITC-TURIN		22/12/08	22/10/10	22	€ 998.368,00
Seminars on restructuring in EU 27 Member States	ITC-TURIN		03/12/08	03/12/09	12	€ 85.500,00
Responsible restructuring: off shoring and local partnerships						
						€ 6.999.618
						#REF!

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Mr Julien Desmedt, Unit Turkey

ILO-European Commission  
High Level Meeting  
Brussels, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010  
9h00 – 17h00  
Hotel Stanhope, Rue du Commerce 9  
1000 Brussels

Priority points for information and discussion

**9H00**

**1. Introduction by Co-Chairpersons**

*Introductory remarks – against the background of the crisis, political developments of overriding importance and their opportunities for ongoing and future cooperation*

- Crisis-related initiatives at the multilateral level – notably upcoming G20 Labour and Employment Minister Meeting
- The ILO Global Jobs Pact
- Europe 2020
- Support to Developing Countries
- The EU Lisbon Treaty

**9H30**

**2. Employment and Decent Work**

**2.1** *Crisis and Recovery – cooperation to prepare the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting on 20 and 21 April 2010*

- Assessment of crisis and recovery measures
- The Training and skills initiative promoted by G20
  - ILO approach on the training strategy requested by the Pittsburgh Summit
  - Input from the EU approach to skills development, anticipation and matching ("New Skills for New Jobs")
- Presentation of other European policies to mitigate the crisis impact and prepare for recovery

**10H45 – 11H00 COFFEE BREAK**

**11H00**

**2.2** *Shifting to low-carbon economies: Social and Employment implications*

- The ILO "Green Jobs" programme
- EU initiatives

- Joint Initiatives

## 11H15

### 2.3 *Flexicurity*

- Developments in the EU
- International Dimension

## 11H30

### 2.4 *The Promotion of the Decent Work Agenda*

- First Recurrent Discussion under the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on Employment at the 2010 International Labour Conference
- Promoting the Decent Work Concept and its implementation as part of EU 2020
- Joint initiatives

## 11H45

### 2.5 *Gender Equality*

- ILO follow up to the conclusions of the debate on "Gender equality at the heart of Decent Work) at the International Labour Conference 2009
- Preparation of future framework on gender equality by the European Commission
- New developments on EU legislation
- Finalisation of gender stereotypes in SME's
- External dimension: Gender Action Plan
- Outcomes of the EC-UN-Partnership on Gender Equality/Development and Peace (EC-UNIFEM-ILO)
- Joint initiatives/ programmes

## 12H05

### 2.6 *Employment of Persons with disabilities*

- Information by the Commission on the future policy framework of the Commission regarding disabilities (from 2010)
- Information by the ILO on activities



12H15

2.7 *Social Dialogue and industrial relations*

- Exchange: The role of social partners for crisis & recovery , climate change and green jobs
- Projects and Cooperation
- Working Conditions of Fishermen

2.8 *Socially responsible anticipation and management of restructuring and structural transitions including European Globalisation Adjustment Fund*

- EC approach and activities
- ILO approach and activities
- Exchange on European Globalisation Adjustment Fund

2.9 *Migration*

- Stockholm Programme
- ILO activities
- Commission activities

**13H15 -14H30: Lunch Break**

14H30

2.10 *Labour Law*

- Private Employment Agencies and Temporary Agency Workers
- European Court of Justice Rulings on Posting of Workers
- Working Time regulation: developments at EC level
- Transnational Company Agreement
- Labour Inspection

14H55

**3. Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy**

- Enlargement – social dialogue issues
- European Neighbourhood Policy Countries
  - Eastern Partnership and Euro-Med

- Cooperation on the Union for the Mediterranean High Level Working Group on employment and joint management project

15H15

#### 4. Social Protection

- ILO activities
- Joint Assessment of the Social Protection Committee and the Commission on the social impact of the crisis
- European Year 2010 for combating poverty and social exclusion
- Cooperation
- European Report on Development 2010

15H40

#### 5. Trade, labour standards and Decent Work (DG TRADE)

- Bilateral Agreements between EU and third countries, incl. Korea and Columbia
- GSP and GSP plus, including update on Sri-Lanka
- Child Labour
- ILO/WTO cooperation
- Technical cooperation:
  - Possible cooperation on implementation of fundamental ILO Conventions
  - Trade related adjustments

16H10

#### 6. Employment and decent work in development and external action

- Mainstreaming of employment and decent work in development cooperation
- MDG review
- Capacity building of social partners, social dialogue and labour administrations
- EC-ILO cooperation at local level – joint regional seminars on employment and decent work
- Cooperation on promoting human rights

16H40

### II. Points for information

- International Labour Office:
  - International Labour Conference 2010
  - Maritime Labour Convention
  - Work in Fishing Sector Convention
- Commission:

- Decent work events and related activities under the EU Council Presidencies 2010
- Maritime Labour Convention
- Work in Fishing Convention
- ENP Studies on Social Protection (Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)

- Overview table of ongoing EC-ILO projects and programs co-funded by the EC (see separate documents)
- Overview table of cooperation since High Level Meeting 2008

16H50

**III. Concluding Remarks**

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