



International Labour Organization  
Organisation internationale du Travail  
Organización Internacional del Trabajo



*European Economic and Social Committee*

**JOINT EESC-ILO WORKSHOP  
DRAFT SUMMARY of DISCUSSIONS  
Geneva – March 9, 2010**

**Background**

The International Labour Organization (ILO) received a delegation from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on 9 March 2010, further to their 1 December 2005 agreement to strengthen relations between the two institutions. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to exchange views on issues of common interest, to explore how the ILO and EESC could enhance their cooperation, and to examine the potential for further synergies. Issues of common interest included the global economic crisis, fundamental principles and rights at work, labour migration and enterprise development. The programme of the one-day workshop and its list of participants are attached as an annex to this summary.

**Summary of discussions**

Informal cooperation between the EESC and the ILO was well established prior to the signing of the 2005 agreement. This included, in particular, the exchange of invitations to events of common interest. Both institutions agreed that this practice should be continued and, indeed, enhanced.

In this context, the EESC extended an invitation to the ILO Director-General to outline the Decent Work Agenda of the ILO at one of its future plenary sessions in Brussels. At the secretariat (working) level, annual coordination meetings could be organised to discuss potential areas for joint activities. On behalf of the ILO, the DIALOGUE Department, under the overall guidance of the Executive Director for Social Dialogue, offered to facilitate the process.

As a result of the workshop, the following proposals for enhanced collaboration emerged:

### **1. ILO-EESC cooperation on social affairs:**

Both organisations are seek broader cooperation in areas such as decent work, the promotion of ratification and application of pertinent ILO conventions , including the fundamental principles and rights at work, corporate social responsibility through the promotion of the ILO MNEs Declaration (multi-national corporations), social dialogue, migration, social integration and employment, wages, and social protection policies.

- The EESC will continue to invite ILO representatives to attend relevant events and hearings.
- The EESC welcomes a full update on ILO events in relation to the above thematic areas, and invitations to corresponding events. Apart from more formal Governing Body meetings and the International Labour Conference, such invitations can be transmitted directly or through the ILO Office in Brussels on a routine basis.
- The EESC and the European Commission recently created the European Integration Forum aimed at enabling civil society organisations to express their views to the EU institutions on issues relating to migration and integration. The Forum held it first meeting in April 2009. At EESC's invitation, the ILO will consider closer involvement in the context of the European Integration Forum.
- In relation to employment, the EESC suggests that new initiatives along the lines of the successful conference jointly organised by the EESC and the ILO on 26-27 June 2006 entitled "*The European Social Model*" be considered. Inter alia, topics could include health and safety at work, up-to-date ILO conventions, including fundamental principles and rights at work, corporate social responsibility and responses to the financial, economic and social crisis, notably in the framework of the EU 2020 strategy and the ILO Global Jobs Pact.
- The ILO and the EESC agreed to further strengthen their collaboration regarding migration, integration of migrant workers, and economic and social development.
- The EESC could explore how the network of the EU national consultative councils could contribute to fostering a better interplay between efforts developed at the national and EU levels in relation to one or more of the above mentioned initiatives.
- The ILO's Bureau for Workers Activities (ACTRAV) and the EESC's Employees Group agreed to initiate a consultation process to establish closer relationships, exchange views on issues of common interest, and explore areas of possible cooperation.
- The EESC's Employers Group proposes to initiate similar cooperation with the ILO's Bureau for Employers Activities (ACT/EMP)
- The ILO's DIALOGUE Department and EESC's Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship should envisage joint periodic meetings to exchange information on issues such as social dialogue and labour market trends, as well as joint events.

## **2. ILO-EESC cooperation on external relations:**

The EESC and the ILO have already successfully cooperated on a number of initiatives relating to the EU's external relations. Joint initiatives included promoting the stronger involvement and recognition of social partners through bi- and tripartite processes, as well as the wider civil society in reference to EU enlargement, EU neighbourhood policy (both Eastern Europe and EuroMed), and EU development cooperation and external action and trade agreements (e.g EU instrument on democracy and human rights and the thematic programme on non-state actors in development and local authorities). The EESC and the ILO have exchanged expertise on, and contributed to, the social dimension of globalisation and to EU bilateral relations with other regions, such as with Latin America (e.g., a recent 2010 meeting in Lima) and Africa (March 2010 hearing on the social economy).

The increasing role of the EU as a global player and the reform of global governance for a more balanced, inclusive and sustained development will provide further opportunities to strengthen cooperation.

As has been successfully done in the past, mutual invitations to events in the external relations field, as well as the organisation of joint events could be scheduled for 2010. These initiatives could facilitate better understanding about the respective roles of social and civil dialogue in societies and their potential complementarities relative to the regional or national contexts in which they take place. Such initiatives would be preceded by consultations to ensure synergies in the implementation of activities.

On the EESC side, the active involvement of ILO could be considered in the following areas:

- Invite ILO to the Third workshop on "EU-Ukraine relations: the role of the civil society industrial change and economic crisis in Ukraine", jointly organised with the Ukrainian National Tripartite Social and Economic Council (NTSEC) in Kiev, 25 -26 March 2010. Issues to be considered include the respective roles of social dialogue and civil society involvement in the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement and in the monitoring of the FFA negotiations, industrial restructuring and the economic crisis in Ukraine;
- ILO to participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> EU-Latin America Civil Society Meeting (Madrid, 5-7 May 2010), considering the role of civil society in the EU-Latin America Strategic Partnership and on the social dimension of innovation; A Trade Union Meeting will also be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May in Madrid;

- Invitation to the ILO to take part in the "Third Western Balkans Civil Society Forum", to be organised by the EESC in Brussels on 18-19 May 2010. Agenda items include: economic and social rights; the promotion of civil society development; and transport policy in the Western Balkans;
- Organise a joint EESC-ILO seminar on migration issues in New Delhi in June (in cooperation with the ILO Office in New Delhi);
- Invite ILO to a seminar organised by the EESC and the Civil Chamber of the Russian Federation in Moscow in June 2010 (date to be confirmed). Issues on the agenda include: involvement of civil society in the negotiations of the EU-Russia Strategic Partnership, civil and social dialogue as well as measures to support decent work for young people, including through youth entrepreneurship;
- ILO to participate in the 11th Regional Seminar of ACP-EU Economic and Social Interest Groups, to be organised by the EESC in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7-9 July 2010. Issues on the agenda include: negotiations of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs); food security; the role of non-state actors in the implementation of the Cotonou Agreement; the EU-Africa strategy; the social economy in Africa;
- Consider continued cooperation on the Mediterranean countries and with Eastern Europe and Black Sea countries (along the lines of the successful joint seminar organised in 2008).

On the ILO side, the following action is considered to actively involve the EESC:

- Invite EESC to participate in the Sub-regional Conference on role and functioning of Economic and Social Councils in the Western Balkans countries and Moldova at a time of economic crisis, organised by the Budapest-based ILO Subregional office for Central and Eastern Europe, scheduled on 23-24 June 2010.(Ohrid-the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia);
- The ILO shall continue to invite the EESC to relevant ILO meetings as well as to keep EESC informed about ILO events and initiatives;

The ILO Brussels Office will facilitate this process.

### **Annex:**

Agenda of the workshop

List of participants from the ILO

List of participants from EESC



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**European Economic and Social Committee**

**Visit of a delegation  
 from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)  
 to the International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

**Geneva, 9 March 2010**

**(ROOM III, R3)**

**Agenda**

- 9.30-10.00 **Opening:**
- **Mr George Dragnich**, Executive Director for Social Dialogue, ILO
  - **Ms Leila Kurki**, President of the EESC Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship
  - **Ms Petra Ulshoefer**, Director, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, ILO
  - **Mr Filip Hamro-Drotz**, President of the EESC External Relations Section
- 10.00-10.15 Cooperation between ILO and the European Union: a brief overview
- **Mr Rudi Delarue**, Director, ILO Brussels
- 10.15-10.30 *Coffee break*
- 10.30-12.30 **Working session I:** The global economic crisis, its impact on workers and enterprises and the prospects ahead – co-chaired by **Ms Leila Kurki** and **Mr George Dragnich**
- Decent Work and the Global Jobs Pact

- **Mr Jose Manuel Salazar**, Executive Director for Employment
- **Mr Xavier Verboven** and **Ms Vladimíra Drbalová**, Members of the EESC
- Discussion
- Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and ratification and implementation of International Labour Conventions
  - **Mr Kari Tapiola**, Executive Director for Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
  - **Mr Xavier Verboven**, Member of the EESC
  - Discussion
- SME's, entrepreneurship and corporate social responsibility
  - **Ms Vladimíra Drbalová**, Member of the EESC
  - **Mr Peter Poschen**, Director of Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department
  - Discussion

*12.30-14.00 Lunch break*

**14.00-15.45 Working Session II: The global economic crisis and developing countries**  
– co-chaired by **Mr Filip Hamro-Drotz** and **Mr George Dragnich**

- The impact of the crisis on developing countries
  - **Mr Sandy Boyle**, Member of the EESC – presentation of EESC opinion
  - **Mr Raymond Torres**, Director, Institute for International Labour Studies
  - Discussion
- The issue of labour migrations
  - **Mr Assane Diop**, Executive Director for Social Protection
  - **Mr Cristian Pîrvulescu**, Member of the EESC
  - **Ms Christiane Kuptsch**, ILO – Presentation of the EC-UN-ILO Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI)
  - Discussion

*15.45-16.00 Coffee break*

- 16.00-16.30 Meeting with **Mr Dan Cunniah**, Director of the Bureau for Workers' Activities
- 16.30-17.00 Meeting with **Mr Jean-François Retournard**, Director of the Bureau for Employers' Activities
- 17.00-17.30 Meeting with **Mr Philippe Egger**, Deputy Director, CABINET of the Director General of the ILO
- 17.30-18.30 **Wrap up session:** Future cooperation between the EESC and the ILO in the EU and outside the EU

Working languages: English, French, Spanish

**ILO participants**

- Mr George Dragnich,  
Executive Director for Social Dialogue
- Mr Philippe Egger,  
Deputy Director, Cabinet of Director General
- Mr Christophe Perrin,  
Advisor, Cabinet of Director General
- Ms Petra Ulshoefer,  
Director, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- Mr Rudi Delarue,  
Director, ILO Office in Brussels
- Mr Jose Manuel Salazar,  
Executive Director for Employment
- Mr Kari Tapiola,  
Executive Director for Standards and Fundamental Principles and Rights  
at Work
- Mr Raymond Torres,  
Director, Institute for International Labour Studies
- Mr Assane Diop,  
Executive Director for Social Protection
- Mr Dan Cunniah,  
Director, Bureau for Workers' Activities
- Mr Jean Francois Retournard,  
Director, Bureau for Employers' Activities
- Mr Tayo Fashoyin,  
Director, Industrial and Employment Relations Department
- Mr Youcef Ghellab,  
Senior Industrial and Employment Relations Specialist
- Mme Christiane Stepanek,  
Senior Adviser to the Executive Director for Social Dialogue
- Mr Peter Poschen,  
Director of Job Creation and Enterprise Development Department
- Ms Alena Nesperova,  
Deputy Director, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
- Mr Christian Hess,  
Senior Officer, Bureau for Employers' Activities
- Ms Christiane Kuptsch,  
Senior Specialist, International Migration Branch, ILO
- Patrick Taran,



- Senior Specialist, International Migration Branch, ILOMs Dimitrina Dimitrova,  
Senior Officer, Bureau for Workers' Activities

## EESC participants

Name	Title
HAMRO-DROTZ Filip	President of the REX Section (Employers' Group, Finland)
KURKI Leila	President of the SOC Section (Employees' Group, Finland)
BOYLE Sandy	Vice-president of the REX section (Employees' Group, United Kingdom)
DRBALOVÁ Vladimíra	Vice-president of the SOC Section (Employers' Group, Czech Republic)
LÓPEZ ALMENDÁRIZ Margarita	Vice-president of the REX Section (Employers' Group, Spain)
VERBOVEN Xavier	Vice-president of the SOC Section (Employees' Group, Belgium)
ALMEIDA FREIRE Pedro	Member of the SOC Section bureau (Employers' Group, Portugal)
ATTARD Grace	Member of the REX Section bureau (Various Interests' Group, Malta)
PEEL Jonathan	Member of the REX Section bureau (Employers' Group, United Kingdom)
PÎRVULESCU Cristian	Member of the REX Section bureau (Various Interests' Group, Romania)
ŠTECHOVÁ Dana	Member of the SOC Section bureau (Employees' Group, Czech Republic)
ZUFIAUR NARVAIZA José María	Member of the REX Section bureau (Employees' Group, Spain)
BENCE Jean-François	Acting Director for Consultative Works (Dir. B)
BACH NIELSEN Torben	Head of Unit, SOC Section
COCHET Antoine	Head of Unit, Employees' Group
JANCOVA Irina	Assistant, Various Interests' Group
MADSEN Erik	Administrator, SOC Section
PORRES Beatriz	Administrator, REX Section
TESOKA Sabrina	Administrator, Employers' Group
WOLD Laila	Administrator, REX Section