



European
Commission



International Labour Office

10th

High-level meeting
between the ILO
and the European
Commission

Brussels,
4–5 December
2012

www.ilo.org/brussels
<http://ec.europa.eu/social>

**Joint Conclusions
of the 10th High Level Meeting between the International Labour Office
and the European Commission**

Brussels, 4-5 December 2012

The High Level Meeting was the 10th 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 10th anniversary of High level meetings between the ILO and the Commission gave the opportunity to reflect on "maximising the potential for EU –ILO partnership". The ILO had prepared a publication reviewing ten years of cooperation, which was made public in this context¹.

In order to set the context and strategies for a renewed ILO-EU cooperation, both sides reviewed and discussed major policy developments and priorities for work for the EU and the ILO.

Discussions on Strategic orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda focused on out of the crisis, sustainable development and preparation of forthcoming key events.

The following key issues for ILO-EU cooperation were further debated: promotion of labour standards, social protection and youth employment.

The high level segment of the meeting was preceded by a series of technical meetings enabling in-depth exchanges on joint research, social dialogue and related international core labour standards, child labour, labour migration/trafficking and specific countries (Myanmar/Burma, Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood countries).

Both sides expressed satisfaction for the fruitful discussion held in both the technical meetings and the high level segment. They agreed at the meeting on the following operational conclusions, setting the frame for their cooperation over 2013.

¹ http://www.ilo.org/brussels/WCMS_195135/lang--en/index.htm

Agreed Operational Conclusions
ILO-Commission High-Level-Meeting, 4-5 December 2012

General Conclusions

Strengthening partnership	<p>ILO and COM¹ have a long standing cooperation on employment and social affairs which celebrates this year its 10th anniversary under the 2001 Exchange of Letters. In view of the positive results of this cooperation for the promotion of decent work and the increasing challenges in the social field, they express a joint objective to further strengthen their partnership. In 2013, they will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reinforce their coordination to promote decent work in global multilateral fora, in cooperation with other multilateral organisations, and in countries where core labour standards are violated; 2. Step up their exchanges and contribution to each other's initiatives, in particular regarding a job-friendly and inclusive recovery, youth employment, social dialogue, social protection, green jobs and sustainable development; 3. Jointly review the outcome of projects undertaken in partnership and the prospects for further technical cooperation, particularly as regards the promotion of labour standards, child labour, social protection, labour migration, social dialogue and youth employment.
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Strategic orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

Out of the crisis	<p>Getting right out of the crisis is a paramount political objective both for the EU and for the International Labour Organisation, and cooperation between services in areas that contribute to re-launching inclusive growth and employment is therefore critical. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Continue working closely together in the context of the G20 to foster policy coherence for strong, balanced and sustainable growth, in particular as regards social protection, youth employment and social dialogue; 5. Support the cooperation with other multilateral organizations - notably IMF, WB and OECD, in particular through building knowledge; 6. Exchange information on their analytical work regarding policy responses to the crisis and consider new opportunities for joint research work; 7. Exchange information on implementation of recommendations under the European Semester and financial assistance programmes; 8. Explore possibilities of technical cooperation to support the implementation of policies and build capacity in EU Member States, ahead of the ILO regional meeting in Oslo.
Sustainable development	<p>The Rio+20 follow-up process and the elaboration of the post-2015 development framework should have a substantial social dimension, for which strong cooperation between ILO and COM will be important. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Share ideas for concrete proposals for employment and social goals in the framework of the post 2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, including possible targets and indicators, promoting national ownership and stakeholder involvement, on the basis of the positions adopted by their political instances; 10. Hold a joint applied research seminar on employment and decent work issues in the framework of the global sustainable development agenda.

Preparation of forthcoming key events	<p>ILO and COM will closely cooperate on relevant international key events in 2013 and in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold close exchanges, involving OECD, on the preparation of G20 meetings of Employment and Labour Ministers and G20 Task Force, to ensure that strong messages on the employment and social dimension are sent to the G20 summit; 2. Explore possibilities of cooperation in the EU and in the Eastern Neighbourhood countries ahead of the ILO regional meeting in Oslo; 3. Agree on concrete procedures to ensure access of COM and EU Delegation in Geneva to documents sent by ILO in preparation of the International Labour Conference, Governing Body and Regional meetings; 4. Take note of the intent of the EU Employment Committee (EMCO) Chair to invite the ILO as observer to the extraordinary meeting EMCO/social partners on wages development to take place in February 2013. <p>In 2013, COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Hold, with the contribution of the ILO, an informal meeting with EU Member States in Brussels, issue technical background notes and participate to coordination within EU team with EU Delegation in Geneva and Council Presidency in the preparation of EU contributions to the ILC, in particular as regards the agenda key items on social dialogue, sustainable development, demography and the application of labour standards; 6. Actively prepare EU contributions to the ILO Regional meeting in Oslo.
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Key issues for ILO-EU cooperation
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Promotion of labour standards	<p>ILO and COM have a long-standing policy to promote ILO standards and to cooperate in this regard. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Hold technical exchange on developments regarding domestic workers; 8. Follow-up on first cooperation initiatives on labour inspection in Greece; 9. Exchange views and cooperate on respective CSR and business and Human Rights initiatives; 10. Explore possibilities for further cooperation as regards ratification and effective implementation of the ILO fundamental conventions by partner countries in the context of negotiations on and implementation of EU trade and association agreements. <p>In 2013, COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Share with ILO the results of its study on ILO standards and EU acquis; 12. Take initiatives to facilitate and promote the ratification of ILO Domestic Workers Convention and Work in Fishing Convention in the EU and inform ILO of EU developments in this regard.
Social protection	<p>Social protection has emerged as a main policy and cooperation area. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Cooperate to include social protection in the sustainable development agenda, to promote the implementation of nationally owned social protection systems, including, where this is national policy, social protection floors and of social protection actions in development cooperation; 14. Reinforce their cooperation on social investment and social protection policies and the effectiveness thereof.

Youth employment	<p>Youth employment is the main challenge to be faced today, in the EU and at global level, and major initiatives have been taken on both sides to face it. Fruitful cooperation between ILO and COM should be continued in this area. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Reinforce their cooperation on youth employment in particular as regards action in multilateral fora; 16. Exchange views and undertake joint research if appropriate on models for costs and impact of youth guarantees; 17. Explore possibilities of cooperation in the context of the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.
Issues addressed in technical meetings	
Social dialogue	<p>Social dialogue is a key area for cooperation which will gain renewed momentum with the ILC's focus on promoting social dialogue as one of the pillars of decent work. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Implement on-going projects on social dialogue and the database on transnational company agreements and undertake joint dissemination activities on their results; 19. Build on the exchange of information started in 2012 on sectoral social dialogue and invite each other to some of their major meetings in this field, such as the COM liaison forum and ILO meetings on civil aviation and fisheries; 20. Cooperate on social dialogue in development cooperation, notably in the context of regular meetings between social partners and COM in this field; 21. Continue their close cooperation on social dialogue in the Western Balkans and Turkey and the European Neighbourhood and share efforts to enhance representativeness and capacities of social partners.
Child labour	<p>Elimination of child labour is a long-standing area for cooperation, through human rights, trade and development cooperation. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 22. Continue their working level exchanges on the issues of "trade and the worst forms of child labour" and lists of hazardous works, and cooperate in preparing and exchange information on the 2013 Global Conference on the Worst Forms of Child Labour; 23. Cooperate on the elimination of child labour in the context of the EU Human Rights strategy, including the promotion of ratification and application of child labour Conventions; 24. Explore the possibility to cooperate on statistical analysis of children working in supply chains, in the context of trade; 25. Continue their cooperation on child labour elimination, in particular in Myanmar and Uzbekistan.
Labour migration/ trafficking	<p>Both the EU and the ILO are developing work in the field of labour migration and fight against trafficking in human beings. In 2013, ILO and COM concur to give a more strategic approach to their cooperation and will</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Explore possibilities for further cooperation in relation to the high level dialogue on migration and development and ILO initiatives, including the ILO tripartite forum on labour migration and development in November 2013 27. Explore possibilities of cooperation in some areas such as evidence base on economic contribution of labour migration to development, and facilitators to regional labour mobility and migration 28. Explore the possibility of cooperation at country level in sectors with a high presence of foreign labour, such as agriculture.

<p>Specific countries</p>	<p>Cooperation on specific countries has proved having high impact on the promotion of decent work. In 2013, in addition to continuing their cooperation, notably in Western Balkans, Turkey and Tunisia, ILO and COM will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29. In Myanmar: Work closely in relation to the promising developments in the country and cooperate in capacity building; 30. In the Eastern Neighbourhood: Continue close cooperation in Georgia, exploring some recent positive developments in the country, while assessing progress based on evidence, using appropriate political leverage and recourse to technical assistance; contribute to some of each other's initiatives, such as the employment and social cooperation event COM organises with the Eastern partnership countries; 31. In the Southern Neighbourhood: contribute to some of each other's initiatives, such as the Euro-Mediterranean Social Dialogue Forum; 32. In the whole Neighbourhood: continue to cooperate on promotion of labour standards and social dialogue, taking into account Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs) and Association Agreements, as well as development cooperation on decent work issues between the EU and neighbouring countries.
<p>Joint Research</p>	<p>The pooling of research has been a clear asset for the cooperation over the last years, and should be further enhanced in those areas where joint projects can provide an added value for both sides. In 2013, ILO and COM will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33. Carry out on-going projects and –subject to agreement- launch follow-up actions on the role of labour incomes in job-rich recovery, undeclared work, social dialogue, transnational company agreements, chemicals safety as well as trade, labour, employment and development issues; 34. Initiate joint research projects on policy responses to the crisis and social protection; 35. Explore follow-up actions to their joint project on trade and employment; 36. Exchange information on major research projects undertaken on both sides, including as part of the G20 process, and invite each other to dissemination events as appropriate.

¹ Unless otherwise stated, ILO means the International Labour Office and COM means European Commission's services

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ILO-European Commission High Level Meeting, 4-5 December 2012

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<p>Additional participants in technical segments ILO-European Commission High Level Meeting, 4-5 December 2012</p>
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Detailed agenda

10th High Level Meeting between the ILO and the European Commission, Hotel Crowne Plaza (Rogier), Brussels, 4-5 December 2012

Tuesday 4 December 2012

14:00-18:00 Technical meetings in parallel: Reviewing ILO-EU cooperation on specific issues: progress and new steps

14:00-16:00 (in parallel)

- **Joint research:** analytical on employment and answers to crisis, labour income, green jobs, trade and employment, prospects for social protection, possible joint research under EU research programmes
- **Social dialogue and related international core labour standards:** development cooperation, transnational agreements, EU developments, ILC 2013

16:00-18:00 (in parallel)

- **Child labour:** trade, development cooperation, international conference, list of hazardous works
- **Labour migration/trafficking:** EU anti-trafficking, domestic workers, migration policy
- **Specific countries:** Myanmar, Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood countries

19:15-22:00 Drink and Dinner (reception by M. Richelle and Ms Hoffmann)

Wednesday 5 December 2012

9:00-13:00 Morning session: Co-Chair M. Richelle and M. Ryder/Ms Hoffmann

9:00-9:15 Opening

9:15-10:15 Context and strategies for a renewed ILO-EU cooperation

- **Major policy developments and priorities for work** for the EU and the ILO : M. Richelle, Ms Hoffmann, Mr Salazar-Xirinachs, followed by a discussion

10:15-10:45 Coffee break

10:45-12:15 Strategic orientations for ILO-EU Cooperation in the global agenda

- **Out of the crisis**, tackling unemployment and building a job oriented recovery : G20, Eurozone, programme countries, Youth, ILO-IMF-EU cooperation
- **Sustainable development** : follow-up Rio+20, post 2015 MDG, green jobs
- **Preparation of forthcoming key events** : ILO Europe and Central Asia 9th Regional meeting in Oslo, ILC, international agenda

12:15-12:50 10th Anniversary Maximising the potential for EU-ILO partnership: Mr Richelle, Mr Rudischhauser, Mr Ryder

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-16:30 Afternoon session: Co-Chair Mr Fischer and Ms Hoffmann

14:00-15:30 Key issues for ILO-EU cooperation

- **Promotion of labour standards** : Trade, Development cooperation, Human Rights strategy, CSR/TCAS/business, ratification of ILO Conventions in the EU
- **Social protection** : implementation of ILO Recommendation 2012, social protection in development cooperation and concrete ILO-EC cooperation, forthcoming EC social investment package
- **Youth employment** : ILC 2012, EU youth guarantees, youth in development cooperation, quality traineeships

15:30-16:30 Conclusions - Future work programme

- **Elements for future work** : outcome of technical meetings
- **Conclusions:** joint work programme and concluding remarks